

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

ENGLAND REBORN

Bobby Robson on a team full of new confidence PAGE 48

PLUS: Tunku Varadarajan on Anglo-Spanish hostilities, PAGE 20

BEST FOR BOOKS

Malcolm Bradbury on Jay McInerney
Iain McIntyre: Henry Irving & Dracula

Jan Morris on the icy English

PLUS: the latest secrets of Stonehenge PAGES 36, 37

CENSORED SCHIFFER

THE RISQUE NEW WORLD OF UNDERWEAR ADVERTISEMENTS
PAGE 18

WANTED

Adviser 75K
Head of sales 55K
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TOP JOBS
SECTION 3

67,000 more cattle may be killed

Britain offers concession to end beef war

BY CHARLES BREMNER, MICHAEL HORNSBY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

BRITAIN yesterday offered to slaughter up to 67,000 more cattle in an effort to reach a deal to end the "beef war" before the EU summit in Florence tomorrow.

But Labour and farmers accused the Prime Minister of a massive retreat in agreeing to include cows born in 1989 in the selective cull designed to eradicate BSE — a step the Government previously rejected as "unworkable and unnecessary".

The National Farmers' Union said that there was no justification for the extra cull as none of the animals would have entered the food chain, and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said the Government had settled for a piece of paper that offered no dates and no guarantees, simply to get a deal.

The climbdown on the extended slaughter came at a meeting of European veterinary experts as London and Brussels edged towards agreement on a framework to lift the ban on British beef exports.

The plan involves careful scrutiny of every British move to wipe out the disease and does not suggest when the embargo may be lifted. Even so, Germany and three other states were resisting it yesterday: they want cows born in 1988 slaughtered as well.

Under the British concession, up to 67,000 cattle could be killed, on top of the 150,000 or so already identified as being at special risk of developing BSE. But Downing Street said it was a "theoretical maximum" and the real figure was likely to be nearer 25,000, since many may have died or been slaughtered already under the scheme to keep cows over 30 months old out of the food chain.

Besides the slaughter, the European Commission wants



"Takes the edge off the feel-good factor"

to see an effective identification programme for all cattle and the confirmed destruction of all animal-based food and the cleaning of premises where it has been stored. The framework also requires every step that Britain takes to be policed by inspectors and approved by both existing EU machinery and a specially created super-committee of experts.

The eventual lifting of the export ban would cover first animals from grass-fed herds that are certified BSE-free, then calf embryos, followed by animals born after a specific date and their meat, meat from animals under 30 months and finally, all bovine meat.

Given all the conditions, it is clear that it will be months before any approval can be expected for lifting even the first phase of the ban. But Jacques Santer, the Commission President, said yesterday: "Lifting the embargo is not the priority for us. It is the measures to eradicate the disease."

Mr Major's apparent readiness to embrace the Commission plan was derided by Mr Cook as a massive retreat last

night. "In order to get a deal, the Government has surrendered to an extra cull which it had previously ruled out. They have not even got a guarantee in return that the ban will be phased out."

It was precisely that absence of guarantees that persuaded France and several other states to support the plan at the risk of enraging domestic public opinion. But it also means that Britain may still not accept the plan as it stands, in spite of its desire to put an end to the crisis caused by its blocking policy. More than eighty measures have been frozen as a result of the British tactics and both London and Brussels are anxious to reach a deal to prevent the disruption of tomorrow's summit.

Mr Santer gave Britain a stern warning yesterday that the deal was the best it could hope for, but the Government will nevertheless press for a better one tomorrow, including the resumption of exports to countries outside the EU — a notion described by Mr Santer yesterday as unethical.

Britain believes the global ban to be illegal and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, was in Luxembourg arguing that case in the European Court as the Commission was negotiating on the framework in Brussels yesterday.

Sir Nicholas said the ban was illegal because it was based on protecting consumer confidence rather than on scientific evidence. "No food is totally risk-free, and there is no conceivable justification for the ban," he said. The Commission's lawyers insisted that it was justified on health grounds and an interim ruling is expected in two weeks.

Farmers furious, page 2
Peter Riddell, page 8



Tracy Mitchell, a marketing executive from Newport Pagnell, who took a day off work to get tickets for England's quarter-final match at Wembley

So this then is the feel-good factor at last

BY JOE JOSEPH

SO NOW we know. The feel-good factor is not just around the corner, as Kenneth Clarke always promised. It's in the back of the net (Shearer 2, Sheringham 2).

In 90 minutes, and four goals, football had done what a thousand speeches by government ministers, and a hundred election promises by Tony Blair, have failed to do. England feels great about itself, almost invincible — not just on the football field, but in business, the Olympic Games, politics, you name it.

A David once anxious about its economy, its sporting prowess, its beef, has turned overnight into a Goliath. If you're looking for a fight, look elsewhere. Plunge your thermometer anywhere into England's psyche today and it emerges glowing red with patriotic fever. To borrow a phrase from a famous Dutch lager's advertising campaign — only a big English sporting triumph can do this.

"I welcome it," said Alan Clark, diarist and former MP. "It reflects a very deep-seated emotion that no amount of politically-correct brainwashing will eradicate — that we are better than anyone else, and that the more often we can demonstrate that the better. It illuminates a very strong and deep-seated sense of patriotism. The people have got it very deep in their veins."

The fact that football, after years as a thugs' game, has become fashionable enough to spawn cultish novels and late-night discussions on BBC2 has doubled the impact. People who only last week assumed Gazza was maybe a new pasta sauce, are now experts on midfield strategy. We are all football supporters now.

"Wasn't it forever thus," says Henry Blofeld, whose cheery voice enlivens Radio 3's cricket commentaries. "Can you think back to 1966? I can. I remember Botham's 149 not out at Headingley in 1981 against Australia, which enabled England to win. I was

commentating at the time. I gather that down motorways the hooting of horns was extraordinary. We are a curious nation like that."

"I think it's rather nice that things that are quite fun can make us happy. Going overboard about sporting triumphs is rather delightful. People take their lives so seriously. A sporting triumph lifts us out of ourselves."

When England played Holland 4-1, a blend of English disbelief and elation provoked yelps of happiness and a mass hooting of car horns. Evoking memories of England's 1966 World Cup triumph, fans gathered in Trafalgar Square to chant, "Bring on the Germans" — England's cup final victims in 1966 and Euro 96 favourites. Motorists in Trafalgar Square were waving

per cent tune in because footballers are "cute".

On Tuesday night pubs with television sets became miniature Wembleys as drinkers cursed referees and whooped whenever Gascoigne got his boots near the ball. Passing policemen were popping their heads around pub doors to check the score.

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flags from their windows. It was more Milan or Barcelona than London.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who has known triumph and disaster on his polar explorations, says it all comes down to "feeling good because you identify with the winning side. I don't think it's got anything to do with the football element of it. It comes back to identifying yourself with the goodies. In the old days, it was hearing news of winning at Agincourt. It's really to do with egoism: our boys done well — we have done well." But he warns: "I think it can dissipate just as quickly."

Tunku Varadarajan, page 20
Leading article, page 21
Reports, pages 45 and 48

Windfall tax

Privatised utilities would be forced to pay a windfall tax on exceptionally high profits under a Labour government, it has emerged. The favoured status enjoyed by the nuclear power industry would also be reviewed. Page 25

Win for Portugal

Portugal beat Croatia 3-0 to finish top of Group D in the Euro 96 championships. The Croatians also go through to the quarter-finals. In the other match in the group, the defending champions Denmark beat Turkey 3-0. Page 48

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Redwood demands an EMU election

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN REDWOOD calls on John Major today to open up a new front against Tony Blair and turn their fire on Mr Blair and "see how many of his followers really do want Britain to surrender the pound and commit herself to the whims of foreign central bankers".

He adds: "It would give Conservative candidates a new enthusiasm, something to sell: Vote Conservative and keep your country."

Mr Redwood's demand has little chance of being accepted as it stands, but a concerted effort is under way to try to persuade Mr Major to take a highly sceptical line on monetary union in the election manifesto. Under a painstakingly crafted Cabinet compromise designed to keep Mr Clarke and others on board, Mr Major has agreed to leave open the option of joining a single currency but has promised a referendum if the Cabinet decides to go into one.

Mr Major's speech on the future of Europe yesterday in London repeated that stance. Continued on page 2, col 1

Euro fightback, page 9
John Redwood, page 20
Heart of Europe, page 29



Clues in hunt for bombers

Police yesterday issued this E-fit likeness of the man who handed over the cash to buy the lorry used in last Saturday's Manchester bombing.

They also issued descriptions of the two IRA men who planted the bomb. Both wore dark hooded clothing and sunglasses.

The first, the lorry driver, is described as white, aged between 20-30, slim and between 5ft 8in and 5ft 10in tall. He was wearing a navy blue hooded sweatshirt and a dark blue kagool-type jacket. The second, the lorry's passenger, is white, aged between 30-40, of medium build and about 6ft. He was wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and a dark blue kagool. He was possibly wearing jeans.

Foreigners face test in legal aid reform

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ABUSES of the £1.5 billion legal aid scheme which allow foreigners to bring costly commercial court cases on public funds would be stopped under government plans to be published next month.

Proposals by Lord Mackay of Clashfern for the biggest shake-up in legal aid since the scheme began 40 years ago will also seek to curb its opened costs by imposing the first cash limits on the legal aid budget.

A central plank of the White Paper, expected to be published on July 2, is likely to be a new "deservingness" test, which will stop aid for those who do not merit it.

Although there will be no automatic bar on legal aid for foreign nationals, as some MPs want, the new test would stop legal aid being paid out for cases such as that brought by a German citizen at a cost of £500,000 to sue Sony in a dispute over who invented the Walkman. There was an outcry by MPs in the wake of the Sony case in March and an inquiry was carried out by the Lord Chancellor.

The White Paper is predicted to pave the way for a

radical shake-up of legal aid, much of which could be brought into force without Government legislation.

The main thrust of the reforms is to re-direct legal aid so it is more effectively spent. Legal services, Lord Mackay believes, can be effectively provided by people other than lawyers and in ways other than by litigation. Not only law firms but advice bureaux and para-legals will be granted contracts to offer legal services.

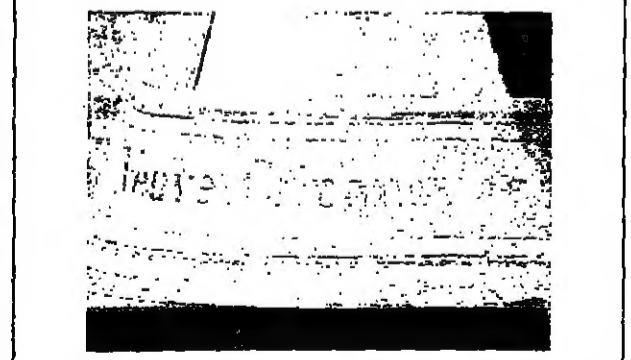
The Government is also examining giving legal aid to people who are handling their own cases, as well as for mediation and other forms of settling disputes outside court — "alternative dispute resolution": information points to tell people what services are on offer are planned.

The main White Paper proposals are likely to be a cash limit on the overall legal aid budget, but with flexibility between its three parts — criminal, civil and family.

This would mean that if there was a surge in demand for criminal legal aid, it could be met, but at the expense of



WINNER BY A HEAD



WINNER BY A NECK

ROYAL ASCOT	18-21 June
2ND CORNHILL TEST MATCH 9 INDIA, LORD'S	20-24 June
GARIBOLDI OPERA	28 June-14 July
WIMBLEDON YOUNG CHAMPIONSHIPS	24 June-7 July
BOOTS THE ISLAND RACE, LAKELANDS	29 June
VOYCE CLACKHURST GOLD CUP POLO, COWDRAY PARK	29 June-21 July
HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA	3-7 July
HAMPTON COURT PALACE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW	9-14 July
RENNON & MEXICO CUP FINAL, LORD'S	13 July
CLONMEE GOODWOOD	30 July-1 August

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CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

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The truth will out, if anyone can be bothered to pay attention

On the letters page, David Winnick, MP, complained (Monday, June 17) that the Commons chamber is barely reported these days. Your scribe writes that Mr Winnick's dismay, having attempted (if tentatively) to "come out" in a debate on the Northern Ireland (Sexual Offences) Order, 1982, on October 25 at 11.22pm. My speech lasted only two minutes; please forgive my self-indulgence in quoting the final sentences: "Seldom does so small a measure debated at so late an

hour touch so deeply the lives of so many thousands in the United Kingdom... "Hon. Members luckier than I may find that personal conviction gives wings to their argument — the more powerfully they feel, the more powerfully they can speak. Unfortunately that is not so in my case. I can happily argue the toss, but where I feel as deeply, strongly and personally as I do on this, argument altogether fails me. I support the measure with all my heart." I have been unable to establish that this speech was reported, in whole or in part, anywhere except Hansard. And that was in the era when The Times did carry parliamentary pages. I rejected the idea of photocopying the speech, and sending it to constituents. Having failed to come out, I went back in again. An evening speech in the Commons had proved a splendid way of communicating secretly with the Chief Whip.

If Mr Winnick (Lab, Walsall North) is to be believed, the problem is still with us. Perhaps it is getting worse. This would seem to be the case, if Gwyneth Dunwoody was to be believed, yesterday afternoon. David Rendel (Lib Dem, Newbury) had asked trade and industry ministers what they could do to make the regulations governing "pyramid selling" more restrictive. Rendel told John Taylor, a junior minister, that people should "avoid such schemes like the plague". Members grunted, "Hear, hear!"

The minister agreed. Adopting his boldest dispatch box manner he too warned the nation about pyramid selling. There were further murmurs of "hear, hear". The Hansard writers and stenographers scratched and tapped away on notepads and machines, diligently noting all this down. In the audio box, the tape machines whirled. Cameras swivelled to record Mr Rendel and Mr Taylor.

Mrs Dunwoody (Lab, Nantwich and Crewe) rose. Say what you like about the awesome Mrs Dunwoody, but nobody could call her halfhearted in her delivery. She declared her total support for what the minister had said.

"Please," she concluded, "would the minister consider making his views public?" "I just have," Mr Taylor said, with a plaintive glance at the cameras. He looked up at the press gallery, in mute appeal.

Perhaps, then, this sketch should devote more space to simple reports? Certainly it is a pleasure to report, from the same session yesterday, the rarest of occurrences: a moment of candour from a government minister. Philip Oppenheim, a junior

minister, is an effective communicator, if a little brutal at times. It is good to record that he is as frank about himself as he is about the enemy. Bill Oiler (Lab, Nuneaton) had asked about manufacturing output, and in reply the minister had painted as rosy a picture as could be related, however distantly, to the facts. "You're putting the best spin possible on the figures," Oiler complained.

Major and Bruton say talks must press ahead

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR and John Bruton yesterday reaffirmed their determination to press ahead with the multi-party talks in Ulster, despite the renewed IRA threat.

The two prime ministers held their first telephone conversation since the Manchester bombing, amid lingering fears that the IRA is planning to extend its new campaign to Northern Ireland.

As security was stepped up across the Province, political parties returned to Stormont for this week's first plenary session. The session was adjourned after a matter of minutes as Unionists voiced objections over the former US senator George Mitchell, who took over as chairman last week on the understanding that a committee would review his powers.

British and Irish ministers held meetings with political parties throughout the morning at Stormont. In the early afternoon, the parties held talks in the main conference room under Mr Mitchell's chairmanship in a session described as an informal plenary.

The Democratic Unionists and United Kingdom Unionists want to remove Mr Mitchell altogether because they claim that he was "foisted" on them in order to encourage the IRA to declare a ceasefire. The Ulster Unionists have no objections to him personally, but want to reduce his powers. Dr John Alderdice, the leader of the Alliance Party, said he

was encouraged that the DUP and the United Kingdom Unionists had agreed to attend a meeting chaired by Mr Mitchell, but said he had never seen the Ulster Unionists and the SDLP so divided.

Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, admitted that progress had been slow: "We have got to put together the frameworks so that we can get down to serious negotiations. That is what this week is all about. I hope that in a matter of days we can get on with it. It is slow, but I believe it will be worthwhile."

The talks were held as troops patrolled Belfast streets and security barriers were closed in towns across Northern Ireland for the first time since 1994. The increased measures came in response to intelligence reports of increased IRA activity in the province, raising fears that it is looking for an excuse to resume its campaign there. The RUC is planning to mount a massive operation in North Belfast tomorrow night to prevent clashes between republicans and Unionists at an Orange parade.

The most severely injured victim of Saturday's blast, Barbara Welch, 42, from Presnott, who had more than 200 facial stitches, issued a written statement yesterday to praise emergency services and said: "I wish it had not happened but my life has got to carry on." Doctors said that Mrs Welch will need several years of plastic surgery.



Bull's revenge: Marholm Nero, a one-tonne Old English Long Horn, ran amok at the Cheshire Show yesterday, dragging its handler Brian Wragg around the ground after being startled. Mr Wragg survived relatively unscathed.

Farmers incensed at offer to cull thousands more pedigree cows

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS reached with alarm and anger yesterday at Britain's agreement to cull up to 67,000 more cattle said to be at special risk of developing "mad cow" disease.

This would be in addition to the 80,000 animals which Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, had previously offered as the maximum he was prepared to slaughter to speed the eradication of BSE. The selective cull, in turn, is in addition to burning all cattle older than 30 months at time of slaughter, which has already begun. It will lead to the destruction of about a million animals over a year, at a cost to the taxpayer of £630 million.

Killing and disposing of even more animals, many of them valuable pedigree dairy

cows, will increase the cost and put further strain on already overloaded rendering plants and incinerators.

Ben Gill, deputy president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "We remain implacably opposed to any extra cull. None of these animals would be entering the food chain anyway because of the 30-month rule, so there is no gain for public health."

"The only possible justification for the cull would be a clear timetable offering guaranteed progress towards a complete lifting of the export ban on our beef and it is far from clear that we have got anything like that yet."

Sandy Loud, who runs a dairy herd with her husband Tony at Lewdown, near Okehampton, Devon, said she

feared they could lose half their 300 cows under the cull. "These are all high-quality pedigree cattle, but because we have had a few cases of BSE we could lose around 100 of them," she said.

"It looks as if the Government has sold us down the river. We are being asked to take the blame for the feed firms and others who were allowed to sell us contaminated material."

Tony Bailey, policy director of the Country Landowners' Association, said: "We all want to see the export ban lifted but this does not look like a price worth paying. We can see no scientific justification for this extra cull." The NFU said it would be seeking urgent talks with the Government on compensation for

culled animals. The aim of the cull, which could affect more than 4,000 herds, is to speed the decline in the number of new BSE cases. It is estimated the cull could reduce by 30 per cent the 8,000 cattle forecast to go down with the disease this year. This compares with 37,000 BSE cases in 1992 at the height of the epidemic.

The cull would involve tracing cattle born in the same season and on the same farms as the 160,000 animals that have died of BSE. The argument is that these animals would have been exposed to the same feed as the BSE victims. Britain had wanted to restrict the cull to animals born after 1990, largely because farmers were not required to keep birth records before then.

be worked out, perhaps £20 — to discourage people from frivolous claims. Lord Mackay wants to stop people pursuing cases they would not bring if paying themselves, and to create a better balance between "incentives to act responsibly and the subsidies and protection against costs now enjoyed by legally aided litigants."

The proposals are the first part of a package of reforms to improve access to legal services. The second is the final report into civil justice by Lord Woolf, expected on July 26, which will propose a fast-track system for cases under £10,000.

A third limb is a plan to increase court fees which would become a "pay as you go" system where fees relate to the costs.

Pay strikes hit post and Tube services

A series of one-day strikes on the London Underground was announced yesterday. The stoppages, over pay and hours, will disrupt commuters and tens of thousands of tennis fans heading for Wimbledon. More than 1,000 Tube drivers belonging to the Aslef rail workers' union will strike on Thursday June 27, Wednesday July 3, Monday July 8 and Tuesday July 16, bringing much of the underground network to a standstill.

News of the drivers' action came as postal workers announced a 24-hour national strike from tonight over pay, productivity and working patterns. Post Offices will be open as usual, but delivery of letters will be disrupted.

Five sex attacks linked

Five sex attacks over 14 years have been linked after a re-examination of police files. In the worst case, in 1983, the victim was tied up and dumped in a canal but survived. Detectives believe one man could be responsible for all the assaults, in the Midlands and West Yorkshire. The victims were abducted in their own vehicle, tied up and blindfolded. The assailant is white, 5ft 10in, and in his thirties. The case will feature in BBC's *CrimeWatch* tonight.

Gang-rapists convicted

Five men were convicted of attacking three British tourists and a New Zealander who were stripped naked and beaten in a remote part of the former Transkei homeland in South Africa in September. Four were found guilty at Umtata Supreme Court of assaulting the tourists, three women and a man, and gang-raping two of the women. The fifth was convicted of attempted rape and possession of firearms. They will be sentenced next week.

Boy killed for being tall

A teenaged gang leader who stabbed to death a boy simply because he was more than 6ft tall was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure. Lee Wallace, now 17, of Gypsy Hill, southeast London, had admitted manslaughter but was convicted of murder. Wayne Livett, 16, who stood 6ft 3in and was described as a gentle giant, was stabbed three times with a commando knife by Wallace last August. Two other gang members are to be sentenced next month for affray.

Broadmoor sacking

A woman manager at Broadmoor maximum security hospital has been sacked after having a relationship with a female patient, Isobel Doherty, a hospital spokesman said yesterday. Elizabeth Hill, right, a clinical unit manager responsible for the care of five male wards, was dismissed after a three-day disciplinary hearing from her £35,000-a-year post.



Battered woman settles

A battered woman who sued the Chief Constable of the Isle of Man for alleged breach of confidence after he published a picture of her injured face in the force's annual report has accepted a £2,000 out-of-court settlement. The 1993 police report, a magazine, was available in the island's newspapers for E. Lisa Cooney, 24, of Braddan, near Douglas, Isle of Man, is now examining the possibility of having her case heard in the European Court of Human Rights.

Wimbledon ball change

The familiar Wimbledon cry of "new balls, please" has been answered by a luminous yellow design. The high-visibility cloth has been introduced to help spectators, television viewers and players. The dye was tested at the Australian Open in January and Boris Becker attributed his victory there partly to the ball's increased visibility. Slazenger unveiled the new style at its factory in Barnsley, where the balls for Wimbledon have been made since 1902.

Redwood calls for EMU poll

Continued from page 1 as he again struggled to outline a vision of Europe with which his warring factions could live.

He told Euro-sceptics that he would not "cut and run" by leaving the EU altogether. But he hardened his advocacy of a flexible Europe, saying that Britain would not accept the pressure to develop Europe "as a single train, with all carriages moving at the same speed". He said: "Not only is that model unacceptable to Britain, it would be increasingly unworkable."

His approach won the endorsement of Norman Lamont, the leading Euro-sceptic, who said that Mr Major was offering a philosophy that could be embraced by all sections of the Tory party. "The time has come to

stop the argument and really knuckle down to try to improve the Conservative Party's position in the polls," he told the BBC Radio 4 *World at One* programme. "There has been an argument and movement in all directions, but we really have got to work together."

Mr Major said that Europe was at a watershed. Europe was not always comfortable for Britain — "often Britain is the gril in the European oyster". He added: "But none of this alters the fact that Britain's place is in Europe. We gain tremendous benefits from being part of Europe. While I have made clear that I will not allow Britain to be absorbed into centralised, federal structures, neither do I contemplate turning our back on Europe. Of course Britain

will stay in Europe. Economic reality and self-interest demand that we do."

However, he said that Europe's leaders must lift their eyes from routine business and address fundamental questions about the development of its political and economic structures. Its economies would need to accommodate changes which meant that Central and Eastern European countries were knocking at the EU's door. He rejected the view of a European model of social regulation that lay behind the social chapter. That approach was "fundamentally mistaken and frankly immoral because of its impact on jobs", he said.

Euro fightback, page 9
John Redwood, page 20
Heart of Europe, page 29

Prince's plea to save house is rebuffed

ATTEMPTS by the Prince of Wales to save an historic townhouse in Jersey from demolition appear to have failed.

The Prince had written to the owner and tenants of Colombe House, an 18th-century building in St Helier, asking them not to go ahead with plans for a new office building, but the owner, Jurat Peter Blampied, and tenants Coopers & Lybrand said yesterday that the property had "no significant architectural merit". They added that the island's planning authorities had already agreed to the general principles of the replacement building and that the National Trust for Jersey did not oppose demolition.

Legal aid shake-up

Continued from page 1 money available for another part of the budget.

Second, a new system of awarding block contracts or franchises to law firms and advice agencies to provide legal services, on the lines of GP budget holders. The present system of paying lawyers on hourly rates would be scrapped. Third, a new "deservingness" test, to replace the present "merits" test. This will look at new factors, such as a person's chances of winning, the cost benefits of an action, and its importance to the client.

Fourth, abolition of the protection enjoyed by legally-aided litigants against being liable for costs if they lose. Fifth, everyone on legal aid will have to pay a flat-rate contribution — the sum has to

be worked out, perhaps £20 — to discourage people from frivolous claims.

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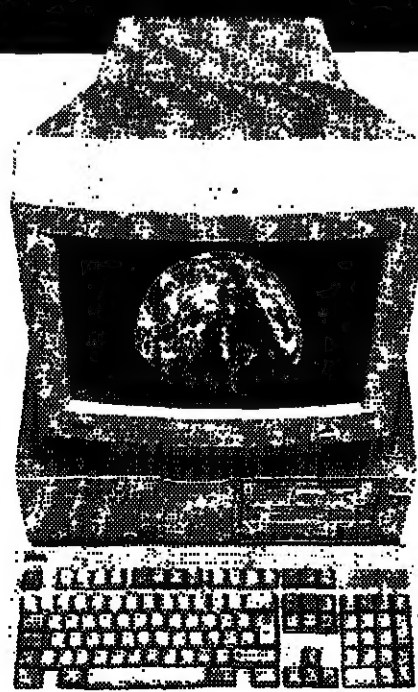
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A third limb is a plan to increase court fees which would become a "pay as you go" system where fees relate to the costs.

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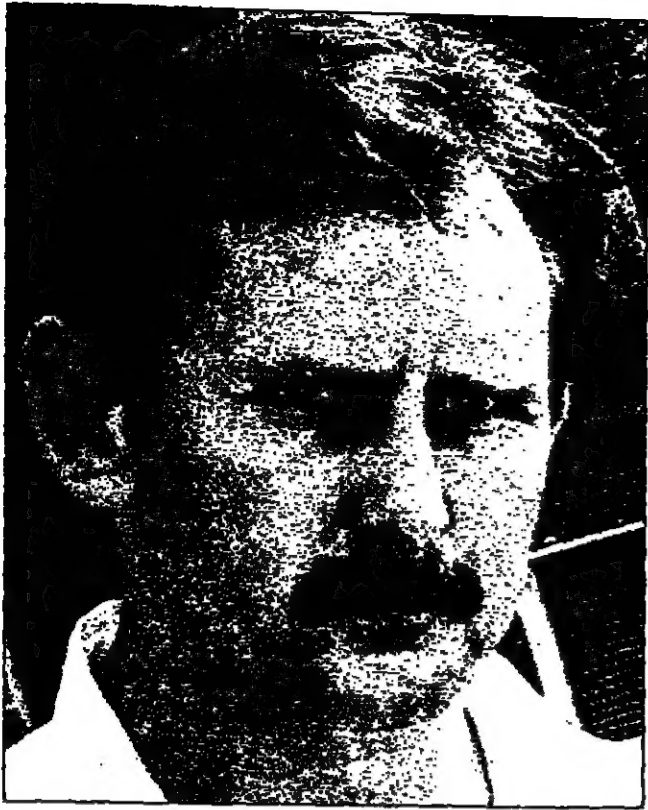


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Clerk killed solicitor eight years after sacking



Death on the doorstep: John Vine, left, knocked on the door of the Victorian mansion and stabbed Nigel Lightfoot, right, whose wife was near by. The night attack was described in court as "every married woman's nightmare"

By ADRIAN LEE

A WEALTHY solicitor was stabbed to death at his home by a clerk who harboured an eight-year grudge after being sacked for stealing £150, a court was told yesterday.

The killer, John Vine, 39, knocked on the door of the Victorian mansion in the late evening after making sure that Nigel Lightfoot, 60, answered and was knifed three times as his attacker shouted: "You bastard, look at your beautiful home."

Susan Lightfoot heard her husband scream and ran to the hall to see him staggering upstairs, fol-

Attacker said 'You bastard, look at your beautiful home'

lowed by Mr Vine. Guy Boney, QC, for the prosecution, said the scene "was every married woman's secret nightmare — a sudden intruder forces his way into the house late at night, carries out a quick and murderous attack, and in the space of a few seconds destroys family life built up over many years."

After the killing in Bursledon, Hampshire, Mr Vine helped Mrs Lightfoot to cushion her dying husband's head with a duvet, then telephoned police. He also showed her pictures of his children. When

the first officer arrived at the house, he was claimed to have said: "It's me, I stabbed him."

During interviews with police, he allegedly said that by killing the senior partner, he hoped to have a chance to air his grievances at his trial. Mr Vine denies murder and will claim manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility or provocation.

Winchester Crown Court was told he had been dismissed from the Southampton law firm of Lampert Bassitt in 1987 after a

private detective investigating petty theft implicated him in the loss of about £150. Mr Vine, of Thornhill, Southampton, denied involvement, but was unsuccessful in challenges at a tribunal and the county court. He staged a series of protests at company offices, and served four jail terms for breaking injunctions to stay away.

"Over the years, you may think, there is no doubt that Mr Vine developed a king-size grudge against Lampert Bassitt in general and Mr Lightfoot in particular."

Mr Boney said, Mr Vine blamed the law company for the "unsatisfactory turn" his life took. He allegedly told police that he bought his £2m commando knife to kill Mr Lightfoot at Christmas 1994 when he believed his marriage was breaking up, but shelved the plan after a reconciliation. The killing happened last September after his Social Security benefit was cut.

Mr Boney said it was a meticulously planned murder, and not an impulse. Mr Vine, also armed with an iron bar, cycled to Mr

Lightfoot's home, taking a coat, hat, scarf and gloves. He lay in wait for five hours until, at 10.20pm, Mr Lightfoot's son James had gone for a drink with his girlfriend, leaving only the couple in the house.

In a statement read to the jury, Mrs Lightfoot said she thought the knocking at the door might be her son, having forgotten something, but then she heard her husband's screams and saw him reel from the stabbing. "He was staggering backwards with his arms out, steadying himself. He was saying,

"Go away, go away, why are you doing this? I was terrified." She repeatedly asked Mr Vine his reasons. At one point he pulled out a wallet, showed her photographs of his three children, and said: "This is why. I am not going to hurt you, it's your husband, the bastard, he knows who I am."

Mr Lightfoot, also a father of three, was stabbed twice in the arm and once in the chest. Mrs Lightfoot, his wife for 33 years, used mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and telephoned police, at one stage hiding the receiver down the side of a settee. Mr Vine asked what she was doing and called the emergency services. The trial continues.

Duchess's sister files for Bryan's bankruptcy

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Duchess of York's sister has filed a bankruptcy petition against John Bryan in a legal battle over her wedding photographs, which appeared in *Hello!*

Jane Luedecke and her husband Reiner are seeking to retrieve an estimated £30,000 in legal costs which they incurred when fighting Mr Bryan at the High Court in London. The petition, to be heard in the bankruptcy division of the High Court next month, brings further financial embarrassment for Mr Bryan, whose German construction company collapsed recently with debts estimated at £10 million.

Mr Bryan, the Duchess's former holiday companion, was ordered in July 1994 to pay the Luedeckes £55,000 damages, plus interest and legal costs. The couple, whose marriage featured in a 22-page spread in *Hello!*, claimed Mr Bryan had breached his duty when negotiating on their behalf with the magazine.

The Duchess attended the wedding of her elder sister in Sydney, Australia. Her daughters, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, were bridesmaids. While the magazine declined to confirm that it paid £200,000 for the exclusive coverage, it is understood that the couple received about £55,000 less than expected.

Kathryn Garbett, the Luedeckes' solicitor, said that the action was a private matter. Earlier this year Mr Bryan gave an interview to a Sunday newspaper disclosing intimate details of his relationship with the Duchess.

Tycoon's family ambushed by Rolex robbers

By DIANA THORP

THE wife of one of Britain's wealthiest men told yesterday how she fought off five muggers who attacked her and her twin sons.

Helen Moran, wife of the tycoon Christopher Moran, bit one of the thieves on the arm as they grappled on the floor of a private underground garage. One of her eight-year-old sons, Jamie, was punched in the chest as he tried to protect his mother.

Mrs Moran, 38, became the latest victim in a spate of thefts of Rolexes when the robbers escaped with her £15,000 watch. Mr Moran, who had given the watch as a present, said the gang had slipped into the car park beneath the family's home in Chelsea as Mrs Moran drove through the electronic gates.

Mrs Moran said that one of the gang grabbed her around the neck as she got out of her Range Rover. "My first thoughts were to protect my children. I started struggling to get the person off. I was doing everything I could and I bit him on the arm quite hard. I was shouting and screaming, telling the boys, 'Get away, get help.'"

"My boys were shouting at the gang, 'Get off, go away and leave us alone.' They came over and tried to pull the man off me. They were very brave and I'm very proud of them."

Mrs Moran, who has decided not to wear an expensive watch in public, thought that the gang had been spying on her to learn her routine. She said the attack had left her with a lump "the size of a goose egg" on her head.



Moran: £15,000 watch

The theft is the latest in a series of Rolex robberies, following a trend in the United States where at least three people have died protecting their watches.

Sergeant Malcolm Cameron, from Chelsea police station, said it was not clear whether the robbery had been planned. But he said that the case differed from "regular" Rolex robberies because of its location — they are usually stolen from shoppers on the street — and the size of the gang.

At least one Rolex is stolen each week from shoppers in the Chelsea area, which includes some of the most expensive shopping streets in London. Other Rolex robbery victims have included Gail Ronson, wife of the tycoon Gerald Ronson, and Lisa Sachs, wife of the broadcaster John Sachs.

Mr Moran, whose fortune is estimated at £200 million, is spending £25 million to convert Crosby Hall, on the Thames embankment at Chelsea, into the couple's London residence. He also owns thousands of acres in Scotland.

Crofter's wife finds Internet romance

By CAROL MIDDLEY

A CROFTER'S wife in the Highlands has separated from her husband after finding romance through the Internet with a Baptist preacher from West Africa.

Rhona Bowes, who lives in the village of Skerry on the northern coast of Scotland, fell in love after exchanging hundreds of computer messages over two weeks with Shoku, 36, who does not want his surname made public.

Mrs Bowes hopes to start a new life with him in London, where he has a cleaning business. Her husband David, 31, has moved out of their home to live in a caravan. Both are seeking custody of their three children.

Mrs Bowes, 28, joined the Internet last year and became hooked. She was lonely while her husband was out working with his sheep and attending Gaelic committees. The nearest cinema is 100 miles away.

"It made me realise what I was missing and that there must be more to life. David had his crofting and his committees and other interests but I had nothing," she said.

"The only person I would see was the postman. When I started talking to Shoku on the computer it was amazing how much we had in common."

The couple eventually met in London last year and talk on the telephone every day. Shoku has visited Mrs Bowes in Skerry. She and her husband, who took over the abandoned croft eight years ago, tell their story tonight in a new Channel 4 series *Postcards From the Edge*.

Handymen 'terrorised family'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A MOTHER told the Old Bailey yesterday that her family was terrorised after she refused to pay handymen for shoddy work. Denise Durant said she was threatened with acid and iron bars, and was followed as she took her children to school.

When she agreed to pay, she was told it was too late because the matter had become "personal", it was claimed. Ms Durant, from Stamford Hill, north London, wept as she gave evidence. She said she had hired Carlton Gayle to decorate her house in last July and paid him £1,600. He brought an electrician,

Duncan Murphy, to help him. "Murphy did a very bad job. The wallpaper was overlapping and two different wallpapers were used in the attic."

She withheld a final payment of £400 after Mr Gayle fitted a new kitchen without her consent, but he told her: "I will smash your kitchen up if you don't pay." That was the start of five months of fear, Ms Durant said. "We began getting calls in the middle of the night. They told me my partner was going to die."

Mr Gayle was said to have followed as she took her children, aged seven and 12, to school, and came to her front door brandishing a piece of wood, threatening to hit her and her boyfriend, Wilmot

Jeremiah. Ms Durant said she was warned that Mr Murphy's brother was involved in guns. Another time Mr Duncan shouted from his car window: "You are going to get acid thrown in your face."

She had seen Mr Gayle enter her boyfriend's van and steal his disco equipment, she claimed. She alerted the police after she was lured to an alley with her partner: "A gun was held to my head. Then it was pressed into my neck."

Mr Gayle, 33, from Clapton, east London, denies blackmail and robbery. Mr Murphy, 32, from Tottenham, north London, denies two charges of perverting the course of justice. The trial continues.

Extradition likely on 1967 shooting

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A DRIFTER due for release from prison in California was last night expected to face extradition to Britain over the murder of a former Grenadier Guardsman who intervened in a London bank raid 29 years ago.

Arthur Jackson, 60, who has been serving time for stabbing an actress, became the focus of police interest in London after he allegedly wrote to the British consul in Los Angeles in connection with the shooting of Anthony Fletcher, 33, outside a bank in Knightsbridge in 1967.

Mr Fletcher, from Liverpool, was shot as he chased a gunman after the robbery. He was posthumously awarded the George Cross for his bravery. It was a killing that chilled the nation and from which was coined the phrase "have-a-go hero".

Jackson, from Edinburgh, was a record company



Arthur Jackson, left, and Anthony Fletcher GC

technician. He was given a 12-year sentence at Vacaville Prison for the attempted murder of Theresa Saldana, who appeared in *Raging Bull*. She was stabbed outside her house on Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood.

Police investigating the Knightsbridge robbery interviewed more than 5,000 people and took 1,800 statements, but the murder re-

mained unsolved. After Jackson wrote his letter, Scotland Yard detectives flew to the US and returned with fingerprint evidence.

Jackson was expected to be rearrested by Scotland Yard detectives upon his release from the state prison in northern California. A warrant issued six years ago in connection with the murder of Mr Fletcher is still valid and is

expected to be used to try to extradite him. Scotland Yard and the Crown Prosecution Service declined to discuss the extradition arrangements involved in the case.

The police files are understood to have revealed more than 30 witnesses to the killing who are still alive and available to give evidence in any prosecution.

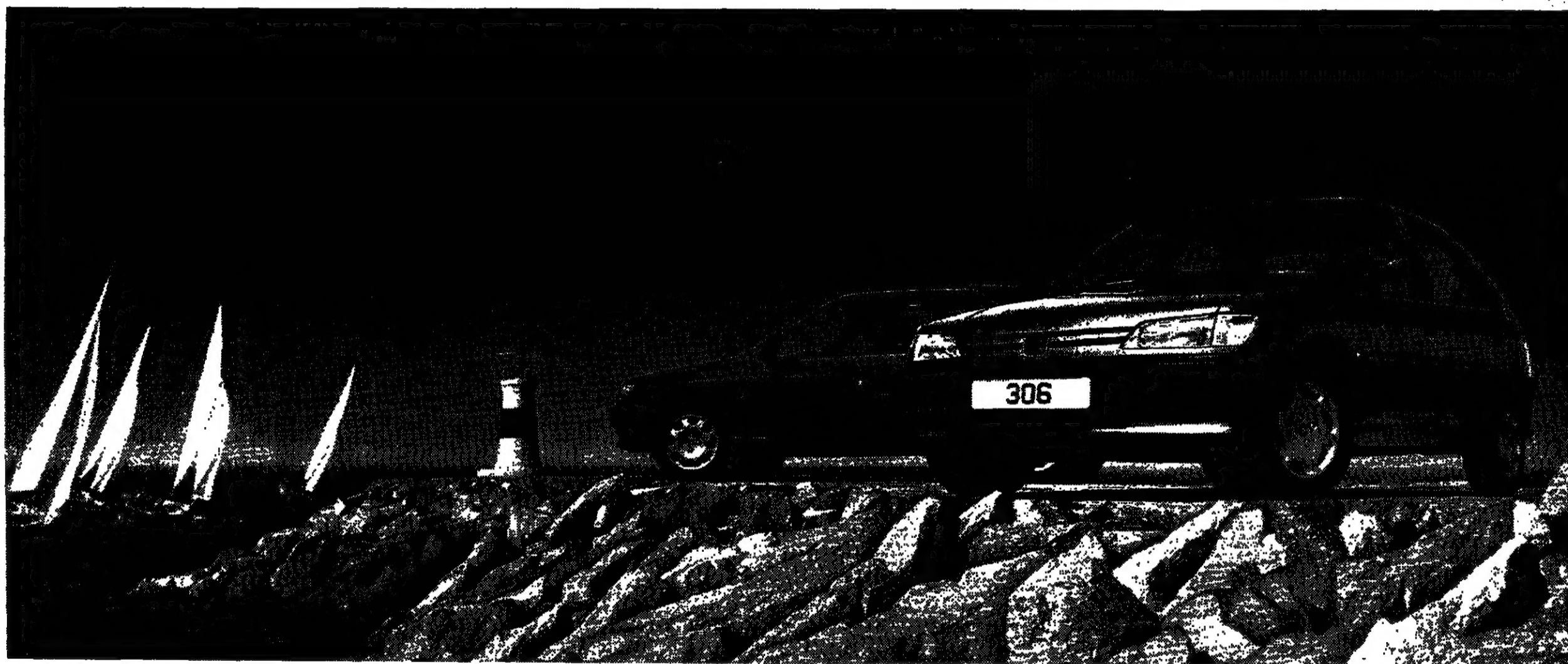
Mr Fletcher, who was unarmed, had said to witnesses: "Let's get him — he has only got a starting pistol and we have got him cornered." He ran after the gunman and ordered him to "Drop it". But the gun was real and seconds later, Mr Fletcher was killed by a single shot. The gunman fled with only £150, after injuring two other men in the chase.

More than £30,000 was subsequently raised for Mr Fletcher's widow Valerie. His son, Martin, of Moreton, on the Wirral, has declined to comment on the case.

PUBLIC WEALTH WARNING

See page 5

PEUGEOT ANNOUNCE AN INCLUSIVE EXCLUSIVE.



This summer, Peugeot launch two new 306 specials with enough supplements to make them the package deals of the year.

The "Genoa" and "Spinnaker" combine a maritime flavour with a vast amount of added value that includes delivery, number plates and six months road fund licence.

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Widow in passport row tells of night in a Brussels cell

By CAROL MIDDLEY

A GREAT grandmother who spent a night in a cell in Brussels, and was deported the next day for forgetting her passport, will return undaunted to the Belgian capital today. "There is no way I am going to let them spoil my holiday," Enid Wilson said.

The 76-year-old widow, who left her passport in a travel bag at her home in Bridlington, East Yorkshire, on Monday, said she was made to feel like a criminal when she was incarcerated in a single cell at a detention centre in the Gare du Midi.

Officials refused to accept the assurances of her son Andrew, 47, a senior EU official, and of a British consul, that she was a bona fide British citizen. They forced her to leave on the 6.40am train to Waterloo station, from where she had taken the Eurostar the previous day.

Speaking at her son Anthony's home at Farnham Com-

mon, Buckinghamshire, Mrs Wilson said: "The whole thing is quite ridiculous. What do they think I was trying to do, smuggle in a ton of hashish? Andrew was extremely angry at the way they treated me. He is a fluent French speaker and quoted the Treaty of Rome at them which is supposed to give citizens the right to travel freely within the Community."

But the Belgians just kept quoting the Schengen Agreement which Britain hasn't signed and which gets rid of the need for passport controls in some European countries.

Mrs Wilson, who served with the WAAF during the Second World War, said she had realised her mistake while travelling from Bridlington to Waterloo. However, the trains were running late and she did not have time to ask advice before boarding the Eurostar.

Having visited her son in Brussels many times during the 18 years he worked for the

agriculture directorate, she assumed that when she reached Brussels she would simply have to fill out a few forms and then be allowed in.

"When I told them what I'd done at the station they took me into an office, got my son and started to interview me. I still thought it was just a formality to be got out of the way. Eventually a man from the Ministry of Immigration arrived and said that I would have to leave on the first train in the morning."

"He was very bureaucratic and rather unpleasant. I couldn't believe it. I was shattered. My son asked if he could at least take me to his house for the night to have dinner but they wouldn't listen to any argument at all."

"I was then taken down this labyrinth of corridors to a room. It had white tiles with a single bed and a basin with a cold tap. The blanket was rather smelly but the sheets



Mrs Wilson recounting her experiences yesterday. "The matter could have been handled more sensitively"

were clean. I wasn't offered any food and my son went off to get me some sandwiches and something to drink."

At 6.15am on Tuesday she was taken up to the station platform, where her son was allowed to buy her coffee and croissants. She was forced to board 20 minutes before ev-

eryone else in a seat designated by the captain of the train.

When she arrived at Waterloo, the woman who took her

deportation papers "couldn't believe it". She said that if it had been a Belgian coming to Britain without a passport we would have let her in. She even remembered a 90-year

old woman in a wheelchair who was sent back from Brussels for forgetting her passport.

Mrs Wilson's passport was couriered to Buckinghamshire and today she resumes her week-long holiday with her son. "It was a silly thing to do, I admit it, but people do forget

passports. You would think they had plans to deal with it. The matter could have been handled more sensitively to say the least."

Freddie Rosemont, head of immigration at the Belgian Interior Ministry, said: "Our staff were doing their job as laid down by the rules."

Children aged 7 given own TV sets

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN as young as seven are being bought televisions for Christmas and birthdays. Nearly 50 per cent of seven to eight-year-old boys and 40 per cent of girls of the same age have their own television sets and about 11 per cent have video recorders, according to a study published yesterday.

Thirty per cent of children in the same age group say they watch television after the 9pm family viewing watershed during the week, rising to nearly 70 per cent at weekends. By the age of 13, nearly all children are watching after the watershed.

Steve Cordingley of Market Assessment Publications, which published the report, said that the research had thrown up some "wholesome elements". "The kids who consume most television are the most active ones; they are the ones who do the most sport and other activities. The number of children who are couch potatoes seems relatively small."

Patients seek £20m over blood infection

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN was launched by haemophiliacs yesterday to secure more than £20 million compensation for patients who caught hepatitis C through NHS treatment with contaminated blood products.

The Government had a moral duty to treat the hepatitis sufferers in the same way as haemophiliacs infected with HIV, the Haemophilia Society said. Ministers set up a £70 million compensation fund for the 1,200 haemophiliacs infected with HIV through contaminated blood products.

More than 3,000 people with haemophilia were infected with hepatitis C before heat treatment of blood products was introduced in 1986. The infection was not recognised until the early 1990s.

The virus causes chronic liver disease and more than 55 of those infected have died from liver failure. It is estimated that between 50 and 80 per cent of those infected will develop severe liver problems.

Launching the campaign at an all-party meeting of MPs yesterday, Prebendary Alan Tanner, chairman of the society, said: "People are suffering hardship. Many are ill and unable to work, more are suffering from chronic liver disease and some have developed cirrhosis and cancer. There is a clear moral case for the Government to act."

Arrest in woodland rape case

A man was arrested yesterday in connection with the abduction and rape at gunpoint of a 16-year-old girl as she walked through woodland near Havant, Hampshire, with her boyfriend. Police, some armed, took a man for questioning after raiding a house in Havant at 3am. A gun and a knife were recovered from the house. The girl was walking through Havant Thicket on Monday evening when she was abducted.

Sex attack on girl

A girl aged 12 was raped on Monday as she played with friends in a park in Carshalton, southwest London. A man, described as 5ft 8in and in his early 20s, took her to waste ground on the edge of the park before assaulting her.

Smoker fined

An airline passenger who lit a cigarette was fined £400 with £200 costs in a case brought by the Civil Aviation Authority. Keith Howells, 55, from Thornbury, near Bristol, smoked in the lavatory on a four-hour flight to Tenerife.

Shock purchase

A woman who bought a bag of broccoli at Tesco in Whitstable, Kent, sliced a live, poisonous Spanish water viper in half when she cut into it. Janet Filow, said Tesco seemed as shocked as she was. The company has apologised.

Riderless jet ski travels 400 miles

A BUSINESSMAN who fell from his jet ski off the coast of Eastbourne was reunited with it yesterday at Newcastle upon Tyne, 400 miles away (Kathryn Knight writes).

Michael Croissant, 30, gave up hope of seeing his £3,000 jet ski again after he was knocked off by a powerful wave near Beachy Head, East Sussex.

But several miles out to sea the motoring jet ski was spotted by a passing boat, which picked it up and towed it to Newcastle. Mr Croissant,

of Crawley, West Sussex, was reunited with his jet ski after driving north to pick it up.

Mr Croissant, who has a double-glazing firm, said: "After I was knocked off there was no cut-off to make the engine stop and it just carried on out to sea. But I was waiting in the police station to report it missing when I found out the tug had discovered it. They were delivering a crane to Newcastle and took it with them. They told the coastguard, who then contacted the police."

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Unknown Mozart aria discovered in garret

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

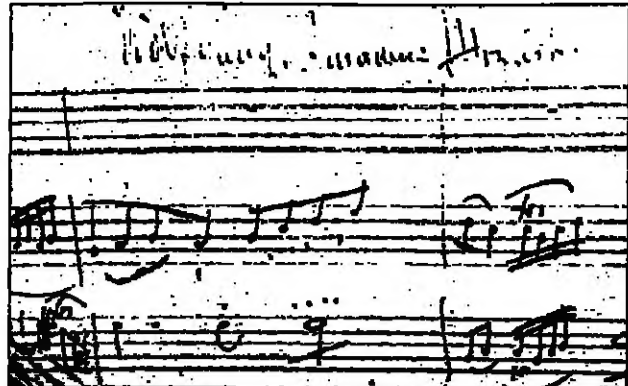
PART of a previously unknown soprano aria by Mozart has been discovered in an attic. The double-sided single leaf, bearing about a minute of music, had its first public performance in more than 200 years yesterday.

The manuscript was found at the home of an elderly couple in America after their death. Mozart's distinctive hand was identified by Jonathan Stone, musical manuscripts specialist at the auctioneers Christie's, from a photocopy sent to him.

The excerpt is tantalisingly short: both the beginning and the ending are missing. The musical style and watermark date it to between 1773 and 1781, when Mozart would have been in his mid twenties.

It may have been intended for the opera *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, but is more likely to relate to his incidental music for the many plays performed in Vienna's princely homes. Its German text, about the pain of love, has yet to be identified.

Albi Rosenthal, the Mozart



The manuscript, written in Mozart's distinctive hand

scholar, said: "It's vintage Mozart. The 'genuineness' is beyond question. What it is, though, is still a matter of speculation. An unknown leaf is very rare for Mozart as he is generally catalogued carefully."

Mr Rosenthal, who organised the 1991 Mozart exhibition at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, said: "I have unmasked a number of forgeries, including a Mozart forgery. This is 100 per cent genuine from every point of view. Forgers are usually very clever. They get hold of plausible old paper. But usually there is something you see at first

glance if familiar with Mozart's handwriting." Mr Stone said that Mozart's writing was extremely distinctive, particularly the brackets at the beginning of each staff and the formation of notes.

He paid £15 for one of several Mozart forgeries made in the 1920s. "I treasure it as an example of a not very good forgery."

Mr Rosenthal noted that the new discovery was not a sketch, but a relatively complete extract: "He worked the music out in his head and wrote it down pretty much as complete. There are quite a lot

of scores which he must have written down without any sketches beforehand."

The manuscript is expected to fetch about £30,000 when it is sold next Wednesday. The vendor has not been named. Mr Stone said: "One of the great mysteries is how it got from Vienna in 1780 to an American attic in the 20th century. The couple in whose attic it was found were not musical, although the relative from whom they inherited it had musical interests."

"Having heard it, nobody could doubt it is Mozart. It is exasperating that we just have this single leaf. It would be wonderful to think that the rest might turn up somewhere, sometime."

The one-minute work was performed at the auctioneers in London yesterday with David Stone, father of the Christie's expert, on violin. Joanne Hewson also on violin. Michael Paget on viola. Tim Bourne on cello and the soprano Giselle Minns. David Stone said: "It was amazingly exciting. It is full of Mozart's confidence and optimism. There is not a note out of place."



Giselle Minns performing the aria yesterday for the first time since the 18th century

Death of Planet kills off Dan Dare

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's newest national newspaper, *The Planet* on Sunday, closed down yesterday after one issue because its publisher felt it contained too much bad news.

The tabloid title, produced in Birmingham and promising news with an environmental focus, is one of the shortest-lived national papers. One casualty of the closure is Dan Dare, the comic strip hero of the 1950s and 60s, who had been revived by the paper.

Clifford Hards, the Midlands entrepreneur who funded the paper, said that although it sold more than 300,000 copies and was expected to reach breakeven point quickly, its content did not satisfy his vision of the world. It is understood that Mr Hards believed that it failed to convey a positive message.

The paper contained an article alleging that the Department of Health had failed to warn parents about the risks of mumps, measles and rubella vaccinations. Another was about river pollution and a third concerned aquariums which keep orcas (killer whales) in captivity.

Barristers agree to offer free services

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 300 barristers, including 60 Queen's Counsel, have signed up to offer free services to the public through a scheme launched by the Bar yesterday.

The scheme, to be called the Bar Pro Bono Unit, is aimed at helping people with "deserving" legal problems who cannot afford legal advice. A register has been set up of barristers willing to offer up to three free days on a case.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, a former Bar chairman and the driving force behind the scheme, said: "The reduction in eligibility for legal aid means that there are more and more people falling through the net." He predicted that more barristers would join, and that in two or three years "thousands of people will have benefited".

The scheme has been working unofficially in recent months. The case of the Zulu boy fostered in Britain and ordered to be returned home was presented free by Allan Levy, QC, and solicitors from Mishcon de Reya. Cases are expected to be referred chiefly by solicitors and Citizens Advice Bureaux, although people can approach direct.

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Prehistoric stone circle damaged by vandals

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE prehistoric stone circle at Avebury has been damaged by vandals who daubed New Age symbols on the stones.

Wardens for the 4,000-year-old site in the heart of Wiltshire discovered eight of the stones defaced with black and white paint early yesterday morning.

The attack, just before the summer solstice festival begins with tomorrow's sunrise, has alarmed the site's owners, the National Trust. Avebury, despite its cultural and mystical significance, still allows visitors to roam freely. Some of the stones are even in people's gardens.

Chris Gingell, the National Trust's property manager, gave warning that this liberal policy may have to change. "The monuments are open to free access at all times and that sort of freedom is threatened by this mindless vandalism."

"There is not only the damage to the stones themselves, but also to the lichen which gives them their character, depth and weathering. They

are vulnerable both to the paint and the materials which will be used to remove it."

Avebury, unlike Stonehenge, is spread widely and would be difficult to police in the same way. Individual stones would be hard to fence off, and it is unlikely that the National Trust would want to segregate the entire village and monument from the rest of the countryside, effectively turning Avebury into an historical theme park. The likeliest options are that security would have to be stepped up, or they could opt for a combination of all three.

Avebury stone circle holds vital clues to the way people lived in the late neolithic period. It is one of the largest prehistoric henges in Britain and, like Stonehenge, it has been designated as a World Heritage Site.

The site, built up over a thousand years, is seen by the New Age travellers, Druids and other fringe religious groups as a site of great mystical symbolism.

The Avebury circle (circa



Some of the Avebury stones daubed with mysterious symbols. They will not only be damaged by paint but also by materials used to remove it

2600-2100 BC) is set within a massive bank and ditch 14 times the size of Stonehenge and 500 years older. There are also impressive avenues of stones, burial sites and a mysterious mound, Silbury Hill (2700 BC), which is one of the largest in Europe.

The vandals targeted the stones furthest from Avebury village. They are thought to be on an ancient fertility ground

with barrow and broad stones, about 5ft high, symbolising both male and female characteristics.

New Age worshippers have identified the black symbols daubed on the "male" stones as runic notes, ancient Norse symbols that summon evil forces. Kevin Carlyon, a "white witch" who runs the Hastings-based Covenant of Earth Magic, is to perform a

"cleansing" exorcism over the stones this morning.

However, experts at the British Museum dismissed the markings as nonsense. Dr Stephen Quirk, a curator in the department of Egyptian antiquities, said they are not any ancient language but are typical of 19th and 20th century attempts to imitate hieroglyphs.

□ A Bronze Age memorial

ended a brief skirmish with the 20th century yesterday when it vanished under a polyester model. Archaeologists decided it had suffered enough since it was discovered 30 years ago.

Acid rain has eroded the cup and ring designs carved about 4,000 years ago. It had also suffered when bleach was poured on it — possibly in a misguided effort to clean the

millstone grit boulder. Experts feared the stone would crumble away within 20 years and agreed to bury it and cover it with a replica. The boulder, 5ft by 10ft, stands on moors at Gardsom's Edge near Baslow in the Derbyshire Peak District. It may have been a waymarker for nomadic tribes.

Books, page 37

Einstein proved right as time flies

BY ANJANA AHUJA

A BOEING 747 was transformed into a time machine in a rerun of a famous experiment conducted 25 years ago.

One of the most accurate clocks in the world was flown across the Atlantic and back. When it was compared with an identical clock in London on its return, the travelling clock had gained 40 nanoseconds (one nanosecond is a billionth of a second).

The result demonstrates Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity, which says that time can be gained or lost according to how fast a clock is moving, and whether it is moving in the same or opposite direction to the Earth's rotation. Gravity changes also affect timekeeping.

Scientists at the National Physical Laboratory, who lent the caesium atomic clock in the experiment, predicted that because of the Earth's spin it would gain 40.4 nanoseconds on the outward leg and lose 0.6 nanoseconds on the return.

The experiment at the weekend, organised and filmed by the makers of the BBC2 science programme *Horizon*, makes it clear that aircraft become time machines. But staying young does not come easy. If you flew eastwards around the world in a 747 continuously for 70 years, you would knock one thousandth of a second off your life.

Vast lake discovered beneath the ice of Antarctica

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A VAST freshwater lake, deep under the ice of Antarctica, has been charted by scientists, in a discovery recalling Jules Verne's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*.

The lake, whose deepest waters are estimated to be a million years old, has a surface area of 14,000 square kilometres — about the same size as Northern Ireland. Lake Vostok, above which is a Russian base, might be up to 500 metres deep in parts.

Scientists believe the lake, which is four kilometres under the ice, is kept from being frozen by heat radiating from the Earth's core and insulation by the ice.

The ice above the lake's surface

is also sliding across that part of Antarctica at about three metres a year. The friction from this helps to keep the lake from freezing.

The existence of the lake emerged first in the mid-1970s during research to calculate the thickness of the ice in central-east Antarctica, using aircraft and radio-echo sounding equipment. But it has taken developments in technology and satellites to disclose Lake Vostok's true scale.

In 1991, the European Space Agency launched its ERS-1 remote sensing satellite, the first capable of large-scale surveys of the polar ice caps. The scientists have, since 1993, combined data from the satellite with new radio-echo and seismic surveys. The research, published in *Nature*, was carried

out by scientists from the Scott Polar Institute, the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, the University of Wales and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The discovery echoes the Verne novel, in which the travellers come across a vast underground lake where they have to fight sea monsters. Lake Vostok, under ice rather than underground, is like a vast flooded valley with steep sides that ensure little of the water seeps away.

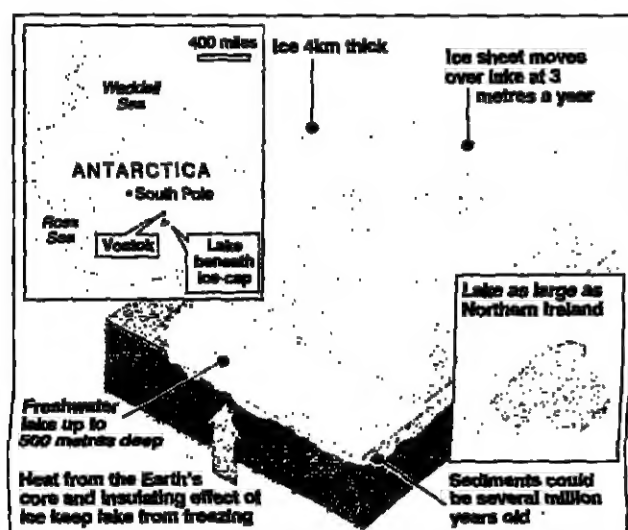
Dr David Wynn-Williams and Dr Cynan Ellis-Evans of the British Antarctic Survey said yesterday that Lake Vostok might be a habitat for ancient bacterial life, with the muds containing microbes found nowhere else on Earth. These might be used to

make novel compounds and proteins for use in medicine and industry, the researchers believe.

"The prime biological value of Lake Vostok lies in its microbes' gene pool," say the scientists.

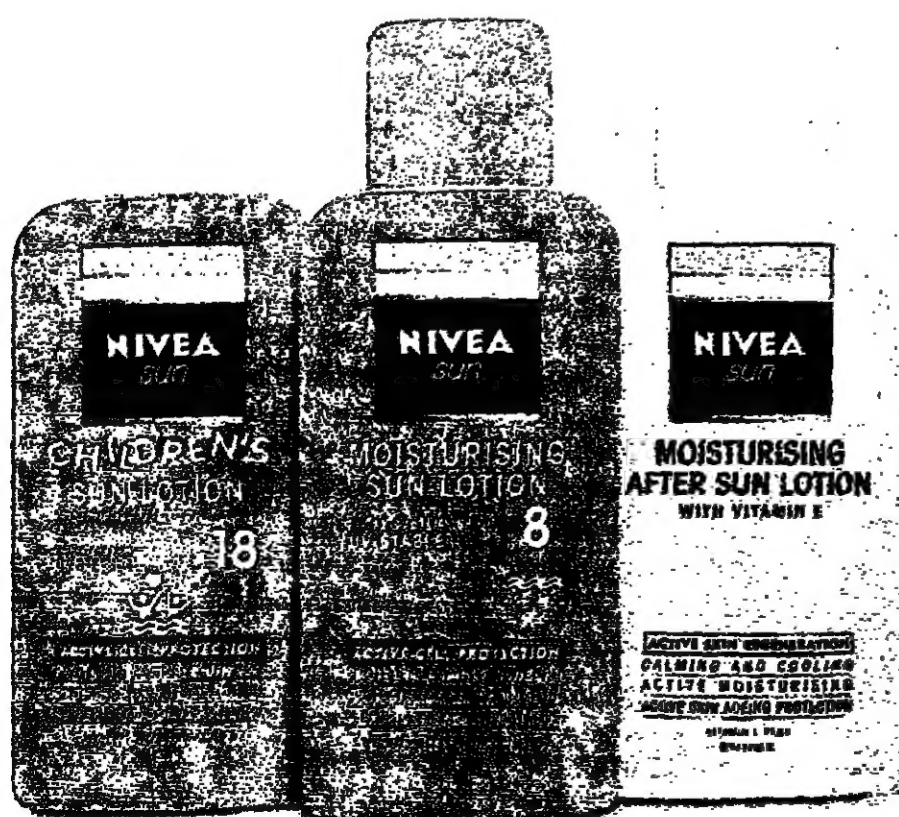
□ An ancestor of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the dinosaur of the Jurassic period, has been unearthed by scientists in northeast Thailand. The find, published in *Nature*, shows that *Tyrannosaurus* existed 20 million years earlier than had been supposed, Dr Angela Milner of the Natural History Museum in London said.

Scientists at the University of Paris and the Thai Geological Survey unearthed the dinosaur's pelvis, hip girdle and about 15 tail bones. It has been named *Siamotyrannus isanensis*.



An illustration from Verne's novel

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Employers may be given access to criminal records

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

EMPLOYERS are to have greater access to job applicants' criminal records under proposals which are intended to provide more protection to the public.

All employers will be entitled to ask a prospective employee to present a document disclosing any unspent convictions. An offence for which a prison sentence of 24 years or more is imposed is never removed from someone's record.

Under Michael Howard's plans, the extent of an applicant's previous criminal history and associations made available will be linked to the sensitivity of the job. The Home Secretary said: "We need a more accessible and open system to meet the needs of employers who place people in positions of trust."

He said the plans, unveiled in a White Paper yesterday, would benefit employers and people wishing to live and work abroad who needed to produce evidence that they had no criminal record. The proposals were criticised by penal reform groups and probation staff associations who warned that it would make it much more difficult for ex-offenders to find employment.

The White Paper, *On the Record*, proposes setting up a Criminal Records Agency to manage access to records. It is expected that the agency, which the Government hopes will be operating by mid-1998, will charge job applicants less than £20 for providing a Criminal Conviction Certificate.

An employer will be able to ask for the certificate, which would detail all significant convictions, but not spent convictions or police cautions. Employers will not be able to



Howard said employers need more open system

apply direct to the agency for certificates.

Penal reform groups warned that the move would make it more difficult for the estimated five million people with a criminal record to find work and predicted that most job applicants would get a certificate, whether the employer demanded it or not.

In sensitive areas such as working with the under-18s, the handicapped and the administration of the law, employers in the private and voluntary sector will have the access to details of spent and unspent convictions for all offences, plus details of police cautions. The power to obtain a "full criminal records check" will extend to dentists, dental hygienists, opticians, vets, chartered accountants, firefighters, barristers and solicitors.

Mr Howard is also proposing an even more rigorous check for people seeking work with children or in the gaming, betting and lottery business. In these areas employers will be able to check other information such as convictions and cautions for minor offences and information known to the police including decisions not to prosecute.



Terms of imprisonment: released offenders would have to show prospective employers a conviction certificate

acquittals and known associates.

In an effort to prevent the agency being overwhelmed with applications, employers who make less than 200 checks a year will be expected to use a trade or professional organisation rather than apply individually.

The proposals met with a barrage of criticism from penal reform groups. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, warned that they would result in more re-offending by making it more difficult for ex-offenders to find work.

Mr Fletcher cited a recent report, commissioned by the Home Office with the support of the Department of Employment, which, he said, concluded that released offenders were more likely to be rehabilitated successfully if they were in work. The report, called the National Audit of Offender

Employment Policies and Practice, and commissioned by the Home Office from the Apes Trust, concluded that the Home Office, Prison Service, Department for Education and Employment, Employment Service and other Government agencies needed to "develop a more collaborative and strategic approach to the problems of offender unemployment". Paul Cavadin, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, warned that employers would receive an enormous amount of information about past offences with no relevance to the job for which someone was applying. He added: "This will increase the risk that ex-offenders will be unfairly excluded from jobs because of old and irrelevant convictions."

"This is disturbing because unfair discrimination against ex-offenders in the job market amounts to double punishment."

Addicts' families living in 'no hope' nineties

By STEWART TENDLER AND ALICE THOMSON

DRUG abuse is bringing back Dickensian conditions of poverty, crime and degradation to inner cities, according to a senior police officer.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and a national police spokesman on drug abuse, said yesterday that users were living in the "no-hope nineties". Many were taking heroin as their first drug and the number of addicts was increasing.

He told a police drugs conference at Hinckley, Leicestershire, "I think we are looking, in a way, back at Dickensian conditions for some of our children. They live in misery. They live, many of them, in filth. They live in a dream, in a world that is perhaps unacceptable to us and unimaginable to us, a world of petty crime, of prostitution, of violence, of fear, of threats, of no hope."

Mr Hellawell added: "As we approach the millennium we find ourselves facing the same problems that we associate with Victorian times."

The Liberal Democrats, meanwhile, urged the Government to try American-style "drug courts", which have been successful in breaking the cycle of addicts and small-time pushers continually re-offending.

Under the system, offenders who are believed to have committed crimes to sustain their habits can be referred to a drug court as an alternative to sentencing in the normal system. The 200 courts in America have the power to set out demanding treatment programmes. If offenders fail to follow them, they can be returned to the first court to be sentenced for the original offence.

The Liberal Democrats want a pilot scheme to be set up in Britain. Alex Carlile, home affairs spokesman, said that the Home Secretary should adopt the idea immediately because the scheme should reduce overall crime, as well as tackling prison overcrowding and reducing pressure on a clogged court system.

Serb in Tory funds inquiry is a recent party donor

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SERBIAN-BORN businessman whose donation to the Tories in December 1994 is the subject of an internal inquiry gave money to the party only weeks before the investigation was launched by Brian Mawhinney.

The Tory Party chairman, battered by Labour criticism over allegations that the businessman, Zoran Tancic, was linked to Radovan Karadzic, set up the investigation to try to defuse the controversy.

Inquiries by *The Times*

show that Mr Tancic, a millionaire businessman and long-time supporter of John Major's Government, made a donation in April of between £5,000 and £10,000. Mr Tancic is understood to have no links with Mr Karadzic and will be exonerated by the Central Office inquiry.

The controversy erupted after press reports that Jeremy Hanley, then the party chairman, had accepted money in December 1994 from unnamed businessmen who had alleged links with the Serb leader, who is wanted for international war crimes. Mr

Tancic was reported to have made a donation of up to £50,000 after meeting Mr Hanley for lunch, although the figure is now regarded as too high. Mr Hanley insisted last month that the lunch with Mr Tancic had been suggested and arranged by John Kennedy, a Tory candidate with close links to the Yugoslav royal family.

Dr Mawhinney, as part of a damage-limitation exercise, promised to speak personally to Mr Kennedy. No such conversation has yet taken place. Conservative Central Office last night said the delay



Mawhinney: acted to defuse controversy

had been caused because the party chairman had been busy.

The inquiry will clear the businessman of any impropriety and Mr Kennedy is also expected to be given a clean bill of health.

Former Liberal Democrat candidate jailed for fraud

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CONMAN who had managed to be selected as a Liberal Democrat council candidate was yesterday jailed for 18 months at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court.

Ken Jones, 46, who had 61 previous convictions and had served jail terms in the United States, Canada and Britain, was arrested after using the names of Liberal Democrat officials in further frauds.

When Jones's criminal activities were exposed in April last year, just before he was to stand for Cardiff City Council,

he was dropped as a candidate.

Peter Jacobs, for the prosecution, said: "On one occasion he made a reservation at a hotel in East Sussex for two rooms. He went through a quite elaborate deception, faxing a letter to the manager claiming that he was a representative at the Liberal Democrat convention. He sent a further fax purporting to be from the party president, Robert MacLennan. The fax said Mr MacLennan should be invited for the rooms."

Jones also forged a fax from the MP Alex Carlile, leader of

the Welsh Liberal Democrats, the court was told. Mr Jacobs said Jones also used "bounced" cheques to pay the rent on his Cardiff home, buy a car and pay for hotel rooms.

John Charles Rees, QC, for the defence, said: "To some extent, he is a Walter Mitty character. Some of the offences are pointless, others were almost bound to be detected."

Jones admitted 15 charges of forgery and deception. Jailing him, Judge Roderick Evans said: "Your genius for dealing with people and organising events was used for evil purposes."

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Tate leaves women artists out of the picture

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Tate Gallery's annual Turner Prize is once again the subject of controversy. This year, though, it is not over the artists' works, such as Damien Hirst's dead animals in formaldehyde, or Yung Phang's room filled with rice. Nor is it over the artists shortlisted yesterday — Douglas Gordon, Craigie Horsfield, Gary Hume and Simon Patterson. Rather, it is over those left off the list.

One dealer expressed surprise that there were no women artists, others that a prize intended to recognise a significant contribution to British art could single out four artists whose names are barely known beyond art circles. It was also noted that the Tate had played safe in excluding a high shock factor.

Nicholas Serota, gallery director and chairman of the selecting jury, said that it had confined its final choice to artists who were strong and equal contenders for the final prize. "We didn't want to include someone just as a token made to some category, like under-25s or whatever."

The prize is awarded to a British artist under 50 for an outstanding exhibition in the last year. Winners include Gilbert and George, Rachel Whiteread and Hirst. Gordon, 29, a Glasgow-born painter and photographer who graduated from the Slade School of Art in 1990, produces work exploring memory and perception. One of the jurors, Mel Gooding,



Works by the four artists shortlisted include Craigie Horsfield's *Andrea Crik*, left; Douglas Gordon's *Fuzzy Logic*, above centre; Simon Patterson's *Sister Ships*, below centre; and Gary Hume's *Pauline*

the writer and critic, likened him to Francis Bacon in being concerned "with the whole question of psychological stability".

Horsfield, 46, is a photographer who chooses his works from hundreds of black and white negatives, including unflattering portraits of his wife Ava. Another juror, Edward Lee, a representative of the Tate's Patrons of New Art, described the work as highly charged,

exploring "urban life and decay, human fragility and isolation".

Hume, 34, came to notice with a series of 30 apparently abstract paintings based on hospital doors. He has since branched out into more recognisable images. A third juror, James Lingwood, curator and co-director of the Artangel Trust, said that Hume was a lyrical painter.

Patterson, 29, takes familiar systems such as the London Underground map and subverts them, for instance by replacing station names with those of philosophers or inventors. Mr Gooding called him a "passionate artist, con-

cerned about how we think about the world".

The Turner Prize exhibition will be staged from October 29 to January 12 and the winner of the £20,000 will be announced on November 26.

Hospitals warned over discharging elderly patients

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE NHS ombudsman today warns health authorities and NHS trusts of the dangers of discharging elderly hospital patients to long-term care.

In a report on selected investigations, Sir William Reid cites the case of a 95-year-old man who lost the will to live after being discharged from a hospital in Hampshire to a private nursing home against the advice of the consultant in charge.

The man, who suffered from dementia, had lived in the hospital for four years. He died two weeks after the move. In March 1994, his family asked for changes to spare others "the sadness and futility of a much-loved relative dying in such unnecessary circumstances".

Winchester Health Authority, which had decided to shut the long-stay ward at Park Prewett Hospital, obtained the consent of a second consultant to the move while the first was away and brought forward the closure by 21 months at an informal meeting which was closed to the public.

The ombudsman "found it totally undemocratic that a public body should have de-

cided a policy matter of such importance in that way". He criticised the discharge arrangements and the overruling of the first consultant's advice. It was "deplorable" that elderly patients were left without proper medical cover in the nursing home.

He added that the case "should serve as a grim warning to any health authority or trust planning the discharge of patients from hospital for long-term care or elsewhere".

In a second case, an NHS trust is criticised for failing to protect a patient with dementia, who wandered from a ward in Orpington Hospital, Kent, and died in the grounds. Sir William says the 15-month delay by the hospital in replying to the complaint from the widow "reflected shameful incompetence and a total failure of management to manage".

Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust, which now manages the hospital, said it had improved security and the complaints procedure.

Report of the Health Service Commission — Selected Investigations Oct 1995 to Mar 1996 (HMSO, £15.15). Annual report 1995-96 (HMSO £16.30)

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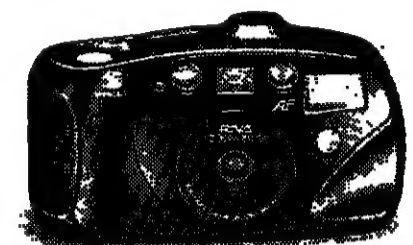
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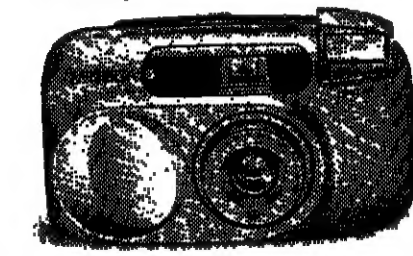
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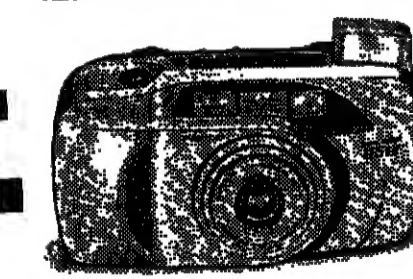
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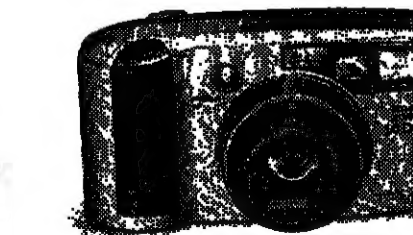
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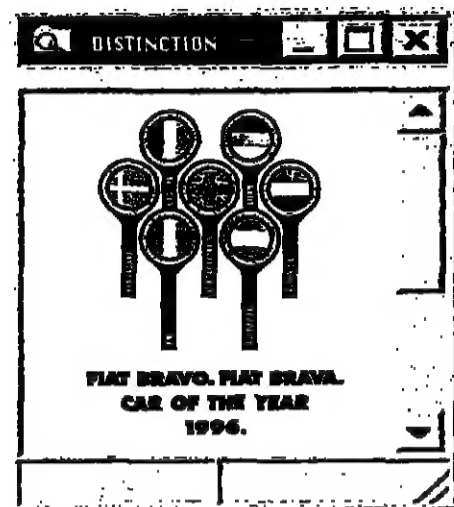
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Ill-judged beef policy leaves Major with damage to repair

John Major yesterday tried to repair some of the damage from the Government's blocking tactics in Brussels — and only exposed what an unnecessary and counter-productive policy it has been. He restated the Government's belief in a flexible Europe, at the sceptic end of the spectrum, but not a completely unrealistic position.

As significant as the content was the fact that the Prime Minister thought it necessary to deliver such a speech on Europe, organised at fairly short notice. It was aimed at both the domestic audience and, ahead of the Flor-

ence summit, at the rest of the EU: to demonstrate that, despite the beef dispute, the Government is not being pushed into an extreme position and has a positive agenda for the development of the EU. He only had to offer such reassurance because of the passions and arguments released by the beef confrontation and by the developing Tory debate over Britain's position in the EU.

Mr Major rejected the argument that Britain should consider leaving the EU — "cut and run" as he remarked. "So of course Britain will stay in Europe. Economic reality and self-interest demands

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

that we do." But clearing the air on this is only a starting point.

How can this be reconciled with the pressures in the rest of the EU for closer integration and centralisation? As he first argued at Leiden two years ago, Mr Major believes that a Europe of possibly 20 or more countries will have to be allowed to develop flexibly. This idea of variable geometry has been taken up by France and Germany, but in a rather different way. They see

flexibility as a way of allowing an inner core to go ahead with closer integration without bothering with continual British reservations and veto threats.

This has raised fears in London about the creation of a two-tier Europe from which some countries are excluded. Hence, Mr Major was careful to emphasise yesterday that "no member should be excluded from areas in which they want to, and are qualified to participate, and that all should consent to new arrangements for flexibility". This would mean that Britain, like all other EU members, would retain a say in how

the EU should develop, even if they decide not to participate themselves. This is turning into one of the central issues at the IGC, and one that a Labour government would have to address given its opposition to surrendering the national veto over defence, immigration and treaty amendments.

Mr Major's other main theme was ensuring that Europe remains competitive. This offers intriguing comparisons with Tony Blair's speech in Bonn on Tuesday. Both embrace the language of free trade, flexible labour markets and limiting the impact

of regulations and non-wage costs. Yet there are ambiguities in Labour's position: over how far Mr Blair's view can be reconciled with Robin Cook's support for "social Europe" and the party's commitment to sign the social chapter. The extent of the shift in Labour's thinking will be revealed in its statement on trade union rights due to be published tomorrow.

The Major approach would not involve repatriating powers from Brussels or renegotiating Britain's membership, as the sceptics want. To that extent it offers a plausible way forward, even if Britain

might, in practice, have to compromise over details of qualified majority voting. But it is not just about policies. Attitudes also matter. The rest of the EU may have exaggerated hopes of Mr Blair given his ambivalence over beef during the past month. But the approach of other European countries is heavily influenced by the divisions within the Tory party and by the blocking tactics of the past month. Most have already lost patience with the Government, however reasonable Mr Major now seeks to appear.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour will keep all of Thatcher's anti-strike laws

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is planning to keep all the laws on industrial action and secondary picketing introduced by Margaret Thatcher.

A policy document to be published tomorrow, parts of which have been leaked to *The Times*, shows that Labour has no intention of repealing or altering them if it wins the general election. Trade unions were hoping that a Labour government would relax some of the rules on balloting, such as the requirement to provide employers with the names of staff taking part, which have made going on strike more difficult.

But the paper, which was due to be ratified by a meeting of Labour's joint policy committee last night, goes some way to meet union demands for recognition. It says that a trade union would be recognised for purposes of pay, hours, holidays and training "where the majority of the relevant workforce votes that they wish to have these".

Party sources said that this would mean that groups of workers would be balloted in a company rather than the entire workforce. On a newspaper, for example, journalists could be balloted separately from production workers. In some workplaces this could make it harder for unions to

obtain recognition. The document also confirms that Labour has dropped a commitment made by John Smith to give full employment rights to workers from their first day in a new job. It suggests that the present period of two years for rights against unfair dismissal is too long but does not specify whether it should be reduced further.

The unions had been pressing for this to be reduced at least to six months — the period specified before the Tories changed the law — if not further. But there are no signs that Mr Blair is prepared to bow to their demands.

The policy document, which covers trade union rights, recognition, and individual rights, makes little mention of the rights of part-time workers. Mr Blair has said in speeches that part-time workers should be given the same rights as full-time employees, pro rata, but the paper merely talks about helping part-timers.

Labour is, however, expected to adopt any measures in this area from the social chapter, which the party would sign once elected.

The paper devotes one section on the need to reform the laws that cover industrial tribunals. It suggests that

these should be made more efficient by encouraging more cases to go to arbitration rather than the courts. There are about 90,000 industrial tribunal cases, every year, mostly relating to unfair dismissal. Under the new policy individuals would be able to claim unfair dismissal if they had been sacked for taking part in industrial action.

Everyone would have the right to representation irrespective of whether they were trade union members. Individuals would be able to be represented in disciplinary and grievance cases by someone of their choice.

Other proposals in the document, *Building Prosperity — Flexibility, Efficiency and Fairness at Work*, include outlawing zero-hours contracts, where employees have no guaranteed working hours and can be sent home unexpectedly.

The paper, drafted by Stephen Byers, an education and employment spokesman, also proposes measures against bogus self-employment, where firms expect employees to act as if they were self-employed to avoid national insurance contributions. It also calls for legislation against age discrimination.

Leading article, page 21



Goldsmith opposes leaving EU

with the left-wing Tribune: "I think pulling out of the European Union would be a bad thing for Britain, because it is a soft option and because being an island off a German-occupied continent has always been Britain's nightmare. So Britain has to insist on a

Europe of nations and go in there and fight for it. It has to either convert — or split Europe." This would be possible because Europe's heads of government, except for Chancellor Kohl, are "men of straw".

In a reference to John Major, he says: "If there was a real leader there, putting forward the arguments for a Europe of nations, co-operating where necessary, most of the countries in Europe could in due course be attracted to that."

Pro-Europeans strike back at Tory sceptics

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

PRO-EUROPEAN Tories will strike the first blows today in a fightback against their Euro-sceptic colleagues.

In a Commons debate on the European Union before this weekend's Florence summit, they will co-ordinate their speeches in an attempt to upstage the sceptics. More than 50 Tories have been briefed by the European Movement, the leading all-party pro-European pressure group, to argue in favour of Britain's EU membership.

The briefing paper, seen by *The Times*, condemns recent Euro-sceptic attacks on the European Court of Justice and gives warning against demands for withdrawal from the EU. "The Euro-sceptics are now attacking the whole basis of Britain's membership of the EU," it says. "[Their] demands would damage British interests."

A spokesman for the European Movement said: "This marks the beginning of the pro-European fightback. We are co-ordinating our activities in Parliament for the first time so that pro-European MPs can put their case."

The move is a considerable shift in policy by the party's pro-European wing, which has tended to remain silent to avoid exacerbating Tory divisions. Many pro-European Tories remain fiercely loyal to John Major and are keen not to be seen as rebels. However, they believe that the time has

come to confront the sceptics. As part of the new strategy, the European Movement will ensure that pro-European Tories are immediately available for on-the-record interviews on Europe to counter the growing media expertise and exposure of the sceptics.

An autumn campaign to promote the benefits of Britain's membership of the EU is also planned. Extra money is being raised from new corporate backers, including David Sainsbury, chairman of the supermarket chain, to fund a huge advertising drive.

Ray Whitney, Tory MP for Wycombe, said that pro-European MPs were sometimes inhibited by fear of harming party unity. "But that is clearly a lost cause, so it's time to put the realities of Europe on the table." In the Commons he will attack the Euro-sceptics for distorting the views of pro-Europeans. "They widely misrepresent what the other Europeans want," he said. "The idea that they want to subsume Britain's identity in some kind of German hegemony is just nonsense."

John Redwood, page 20

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister; debates on the European Union and on New Age travellers in North Tyneside. In the Lords: Offensive Weapons Bill, committee; Asylum and Immigration Bill, report; Railway Heritage Bill, second reading.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MERCHANT BONKERS

Merchant Ivory meets Carry On... Stiff Upper Lips is a new saucy British comedy starring Penelope Wilton that pokes fun at EM Forster-style bodice-and-braces drama. The Sunday Times Magazine goes on location in Italy

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Mafia reels on the ropes as gangsters break code of silence to give evidence against their bosses

Revealed: man who killed 'God's banker'

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE power of the Mafia began to crumble yesterday as one Cosa Nostra gangster confessed to the murder of a top anti-Mafia judge in 1982 and another reportedly admitted strangling Roberto Calvi. The Mafia-linked banker was found hanging beneath Blackfriars bridge in the same year and was said to have committed suicide.

"This is the final devastating blow to Cosa Nostra," said the *Corriere della Sera*. The sister of Giovanni Falcone, the anti-Mafia judge whose murder in 1992 sparked off the purge on the Cosa Nostra, said: "This is the beginning of the break-up of the Corleone clan, the Mafia family which has dominated Sicily since the beginning of the 1980s."

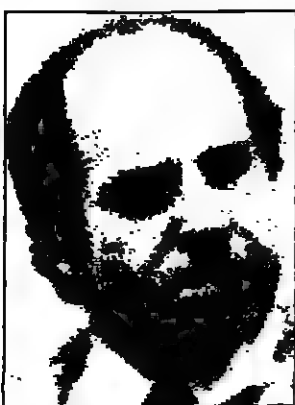
The first sign that the Mafia grip was loosening came when it emerged that Calogero Ganci, 34, a member of a leading Corleone Mafia family, had made a long and emotional jail confession, admitting more than 100 crimes. Signor Ganci had been in jail since 1993 on suspicion of involvement in the murder of Falcone, and had reportedly begun to crack under the strain of solitary confinement. He was apparently demoralised by the string of anti-Mafia breakthroughs resulting from the authorities' growing use of state-protected former Mafia witnesses, or *pentiti*.

"Ganci's nerves were in pieces," said a prison official. "He was worried about his children. He is confessing like a river in full flood."

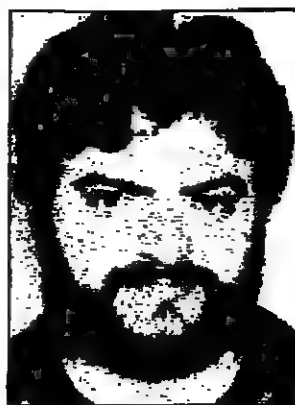
Signor Ganci told his interrogators: "I do not want to live with my eyes shut any more. I spit in the face of my destiny... I want to give my children a different life from mine."

His most dramatic confession so far is that one of the many *cadaveri eccellenti* (illustrious corpses) for which he was responsible was General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the former deputy head of the carabinieri. Dalla Chiesa was sent to Palermo in 1982 to tackle the Mafia, after his success in defeating the left-wing terrorism of the Red Brigades. On September 3, 1982, his car was sprayed with gunfire as he was driving with his wife to a restaurant.

Dalla Chiesa's death was a severe blow and left many angry Italians wondering if



Di Carlo: said to have admitted Calvi killing



Ganci: "confessing like a river in full flood"

there was a high-level anti-state conspiracy involving the Mafia, the Red Brigades and senior politicians. Signor Ganci has also admitted murdering Rocco Chinnici, another anti-Mafia judge, on July 29, 1983, and taking part in the 1992 killing of Falcone by giving the signal for a remote-controlled bomb to be detonated beneath the Palermo airport road.

A second Corleone gangster, Francesco Di Carlo, 51, has reportedly confessed to the killing of Calvi, the president of the "priests' bank," the Banco Ambrosiano, which was run by Mafia financiers with Vatican links and collapsed with huge debts in 1982. Di Carlo was arrested in Britain in 1987 and sentenced to 25 years for drug trafficking. Several high-level *pentiti* told magistrates recently, however, that he was responsible for Calvi's murder on June 17, 1982.

Di Carlo, known in

Corleone circles as "Frank the Strangler", was extradited to Italy last Thursday and "has decided to collaborate", according to Italian magistrates.

He allegedly strangled Calvi for the Mafia and was chosen because he lived in London, running a drugs-trafficking ring. He owed a debt to Mafia bosses who caught him siphoning off drugs money but had allowed him to leave Italy provided he "remained at their disposal". They wanted Calvi dead because he had taken cash invested by Corleone bosses in the Banco Ambrosiano.

The spate of Mafia gangster confessions is partly due to tough new anti-Mafia laws and partly to the success of the "supergrass" policy. Attempts to intimidate anti-Mafia witnesses by threatening their families have largely failed, and the number of state-protected *pentiti* has risen to 120.

The crackdown now bears

ing fruit began after Falcone's death. The first success was the arrest of Salvatore "Totò" Riina, the Corleone boss of bosses in January 1993. Figures from the Pope to President Scalfaro backed the growing crusade, which has been taken up with determination by the new centre-left Government of Romano Prodi, whose first act as Prime Minister last month was to declare that the Mafia was "enemy number one".

Within days Giovanni Brusca, who had succeeded Riina as *capo dei capi*, was arrested in a massive police raid on a Sicilian seaside villa. He is believed to have masterminded not only the murder of Falcone but also the bombing of cultural monuments, including the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.

The Sicilian regional elections last weekend also suggested that the Mafia's power is waning. In the previous regional assembly, half the 90 deputies were under investigation for Mafia links.

The Centre-Right dominates the new Palermo chamber, but despite Brusca's thinly coded instruction from jail to Mafia supporters to vote for Forza Italia, the conservative party led by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon, the Forza Italia vote dropped to 17 per cent from the 32 per cent it won in Sicily in April's general election. The Left even won for the first time in some traditional Corleone areas.

What remains unclear is the extent to which the Mafia killers and their bosses were linked to the Christian Democrats, who ruled Italy for four decades before the 1992 anti-corruption drive.

Pentiti — some giving evidence by video link — are expected to play a key role in the trial which resumed yesterday of Giulio Andreotti, the former Prime Minister and once powerful Christian Democrat leader, who is accused of protecting the Mafia while in office and of involvement in the murder of an anti-Mafia journalist.

Magistrates said they expected Signor Ganci and Di Carlo to give further details of high-level political involvement with the Mafia in the 1980s. The hunt is also being stepped up for Bernardo Provenzano, who took over from Brusca as boss of bosses after his capture, but is said to be in poor health and on the run.



Roberto Calvi, who was initially thought to have committed suicide in 1982

Stockbroker-belt godfather

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

PROFILE

ONE of the Mafia's biggest killers spent nine years in a British jail among armed robbers and terrorists without ever revealing his bloody secrets.

Customs investigators and Scotland Yard detectives suspected Francesco Di Carlo was head of the Mafia's small British operation and had him convicted for a £75 million heroin racket. Nobody knew that the middle-aged Italian, arrested in the Surrey stockbroker belt, was responsible for assassinations which rocked Italy.

When he came to Britain in

1982 to take over a drugs and money-laundering network, Di Carlo was careful not to be too ostentatious. He sent his wife and daughter in a comfortable £150,000 detached house called Brackdene in Horsell Rise, Woking.

A quiet, middle-class family, the Di Carlos roused little interest although the head of the household seemed keen on his privacy. He put up wrought iron gates and installed two alsatian guard dogs. He drove a Ferrari.

If anyone asked what Di Carlo did for a living, they were told he was involved in

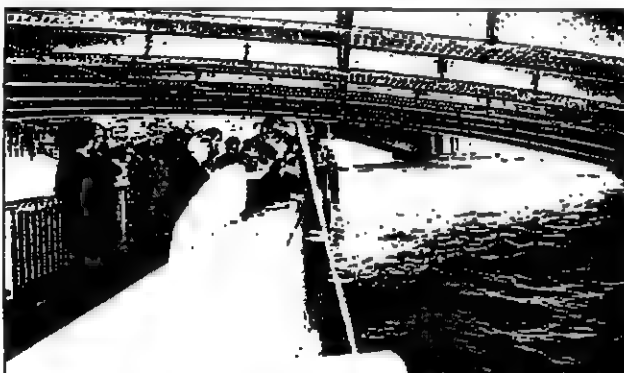
the "hotel business". He owned a £100,000 hotel near King's Cross as well as a travel agency, a wine bar, a bureau de change and an antique-exporting business. He also spearheaded the Mafia operations, smuggling cannabis and cocaine into Britain and the transshipment of heroin from the Far East through Britain to North America.

He was finally arrested after a Customs investigation uncovered £75 million worth of heroin through Britain hidden in furniture. He was sentenced to one of the longest terms then handed down to a trafficker. Di Carlo rose and left the court, showing no emotion, and saying nothing.

His 100 crimes also include the 1992 murder, with Giovanni Brusca, the Corleone boss of bosses, of Falcone. Signor Ganci's job was to shadow the Falcone convoy and signal to Brusca when to detonate the bomb hidden in a storm drain.

The Falcone killing was a murder too far and the attempt to silence the *pentiti* failed. In 1993, Signor Ganci was arrested. He said yesterday that during three years in isolation he had had time to decide whether to repent a life of terror and murder "for the sake of my children". He has a son, 11, and a daughter, 15.

Arguably, however, the new order has simply made life easier for the new crime bosses in the Chinese and Russian immigrant communities. It will be the challenge of the next few years to ensure that the new underworld figures, with their drug money and gun dumps, do not simply take over where the Gambinos and Genoveses have left off.



Death at Blackfriars: an Italian banker's grisly end

The place at Blackfriars Bridge where Calvi's body was found and the report of his death in *The Times*

Shopkeeper's son who repented after butchering the judges

BY RICHARD OWEN

THE FAMILIES

CALOGERO GANCI, like other Cosa Nostra gangsters, was born into a close family in which violence, murder and the Mafia "code of honour" were accepted without question.

But Mafia family loyalties are breaking up in the new Italy. "The Mafia are beginning to smell defeat," *La Repubblica* said yesterday. "For the first time, the mafiosi are worried about the fate of their own children."

Signor Ganci, still only 34, is the son of a butcher, Raffaele. To all

appearances, his father sold meat to the ladies of Palermo; secretly, he was known as Don Raffaele and, with Salvatore "Totò" Riina, the feared leader of the Corleone clan, he planned the big Mafia crimes of the 1980s.

Young Calogero worked in the butcher's shop for 20 years alongside his father and his brothers, Stefano and Domenico. The shop was close to the homes of Judge Giovanni Falcone and Judge Rocco Chinnici. Both were killed by car

bombs: what neither ever knew was that the Ganci family, who provided the meat for their dinner tables, were behind the blasts.

Judge Chinnici's wife and other Palermo housewives asked Calogero in particular to slice their steaks "because he did it so beautifully, with such skill", as one put it yesterday.

But Signor Ganci, like his father, led a double life. He used to go with his brothers at night into the mountain caves of Sicily and practise firing bazookas as well as pistols and rifles, returning in the morning to resume his respectable

existence as a butcher and family man.

The Ganci business empire prospered and grew to include clothes shops, delicatessens, blocks of flats and building firms.

Calogero Ganci's Mafia career began in earnest in 1981 when, at the age of 19, he killed a rival Mafia boss, Stefano Bontade, was celebrating his birthday when Signor Ganci burst in and shot him. The same year he shot another Mafia boss, Totuccio Inzerillo, who had fallen foul of the Ganci family. The next year, on September 3, 1982, he led the team which murdered the

new head of the anti-Mafia drive, General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, and his wife Emanuele, spraying their car with gunfire.

After the Dalla Chiesa murders, Judge Chinnici took over the anti-Mafia action and decided to crack down on the elusive killers. The Ganci brothers got him first, with a car bomb. In 1984, Signor Ganci sensed the danger from Mafia turncoats protected by the State. He moved to nip the threat in the bud by murdering Leonardo Vitale, the first mafioso in Sicily to turn state witness, shooting him while he was on his way to Mass.

His 100 crimes also include the 1992 murder, with Giovanni Brusca, the Corleone boss of bosses, of Falcone. Signor Ganci's job was to shadow the Falcone convoy and signal to Brusca when to detonate the bomb hidden in a storm drain.

The Falcone killing was a murder too far and the attempt to silence the *pentiti* failed. In 1993, Signor Ganci was arrested. He said yesterday that during three years in isolation he had had time to decide whether to repent a life of terror and murder "for the sake of my children". He has a son, 11, and a daughter, 15.

Eclipse of dons as new crime stars rise in East

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

MAFIA mobsters, with their sideways whispers, slick suits and *omertà* code of silence, are an endangered species in the United States these days.

The defeat of the old Italian family gangs has been a triumph for federal and city law enforcers. It also marks America's gradual move away from its Old World ties and the formation of a modern, non-Latin underworld.

In New York, the Mafia has been battered repeatedly by Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor, himself of Italian descent. He made his reputation as a

prosecutor of the Mob and has boldly reduced the Cosa Nostra's involvement in money-laundering activities such as the Fulton fish market, Times Square sleaze parlours and construction.

The 1990 life sentence passed on John Gotti, the head of the Gambino mob family, was a major blow against the Mafia, as was the mass charging earlier this month of 19 members of the second largest crime clan, the Genoveses. That audacious move, by officials who in previous years would have been left swinging from Brooklyn Bridge if they tried such a thing, was swiftly followed by a group arrest of mobsters suspected of dominating the city's rubbish-collection business. Almost all the dustcarts which drive around Manhattan every morning picking up the refuse seem to have Italian names written on their side panels.

Prohibition in the 1920s was the making of the mobs. New York gangs followed the old country's loyalties. Big guys such as Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria and Salvatore Maranzano recruited their families' villages of origin in Sicily or Italy. It was in this era that the "Big Five" families — the Genoveses, Bonamano, Gambinos, Profacis and Luccheses — marked out their territories. Apart from the Profacis, who were replaced by the Colombos, the families retained their influence for 70 years.

Up to his 1992 trial, Gotti loved to be acclaimed as a crime baron, despite his lawyer's laughable insistence that the bejewelled "Dapper Don" was "for the record, gentlemen, a salesman for a plumbing company". It was a shock to Gotti and Little Italy when he was jailed for life. Under Mr Giuliani, the Mafia has been reduced to a fraction of its former size.

Arguably, however, the new order has simply made life easier for the new crime bosses in the Chinese and Russian immigrant communities. It will be the challenge of the next few years to ensure that the new underworld figures, with their drug money and gun dumps, do not simply take over where the Gambinos and Genoveses have left off.

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Good neighbour in Bosnia 'became brutal executioner'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN THE HAGUE

IN SOME of the most chilling evidence of the Bosnia war crimes trial, a Muslim labourer said yesterday that his brother and son were chosen from a terrified crowd by Dusan Tadic, the former cafe owner, and then killed.

Salko Karabasic wept as he told the United Nations tribunal here how his 27-year-old son was pulled from a column of Muslim refugees, allegedly on the direct orders of Mr Tadic. "When I tried to pull him back, they said, 'Do you want to come too?'" Mr Karabasic recalled, adding: "I never saw my son again."

Seido Karabasic and his uncles Ekrem and Ismet were shot dead by Serb forces, according to the charges against Mr Tadic, 40. The first person to stand trial for war crimes since the aftermath of the Second World War, he is charged with crimes against humanity, torture, sexual assault and at least 13 murders during the Serb "ethnic cleansing" campaign of 1992.

Mr Karabasic, who still bears the scars of beatings, was the latest in a series of witnesses to describe how Mr Tadic, a Serb in the predominantly Muslim town of Kozarac, allegedly turned from a peaceful neighbour into a brutal torturer and executioner.

Most of the witnesses knew Mr Tadic and several consid-

ered themselves to be his friends before the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr Karabasic and his family even took shelter from the Serbs with Mr Tadic's father-in-law.

In earlier evidence Nihad Seferovic said he had played with Mr Tadic when they were children and recalled how Kozarac Muslims had helped to build his café.

In the dock, Mr Tadic

"I didn't see the knife, just blood, then gunfire from the Serbs as if they were applauding"

(flinched perceptibly when Mr Seferovic said that he had watched from hiding while his former playmate slit the throats of two Muslim policemen as the occupying Serb forces fired their guns in celebration. "I didn't see the knife, just gushes of blood... then gunfire from the Serbs, as if they were applauding the event," Mr Seferovic said.

He was later captured and taken to the Omarska prison camp, where Mr Tadic, who held no official position in the

Serb hierarchy, was allegedly allowed to come and go, torturing and killing at will.

Defence claims that Mr Tadic is the victim of mistaken identity are sharply contradicted by his alleged victims, who still refer to him by his diminutive nicknames, "Dule" or "Dushko".

Nasiba Klipic, a cousin of Fikrit Alic, the man whose skeletal frame, filmed behind the wire of Omarska camp, so shocked the world, also said she knew Mr Tadic well and described seeing him plucking people from the refugee column after Kozarac was overrun by Serb forces in May 1992. Mrs Klipic's husband, a policeman, and her brothers were among those taken to the prison camps who have never again been seen.

When asked to identify the accused, she pointed at Mr Tadic and shouted: "Shame on you. You were never as well dressed as that before." Mr Tadic, wearing a blue suit, fingered his floral tie and resolutely looked away.

Some of the simplest but most powerful evidence was provided by Ferid Mujic, a local farmer and also an acquaintance of the accused. He said he was repeatedly beaten at the Omarska camp, and identified Mr Tadic as one of those who came to take prisoners away. One night he recalled a "terrible" silence,



Dusan Tadic in the dock at the war crimes tribunal. He is alleged to have killed even his closest friend

followed by screams of pain and foul language from the Serb guards. "Even now I can hear those words resounding in my ears," he said.

By the time he was released and taken to Britain for medical treatment, after Omarska was closed down in August 1992, Mr Mujic said he weighed just more than five stone, less than half his usual weight. "I was totally beaten up, broken, sick, on the edge of

death," he said. Pressed by Steven Kay, the English barrister on the defence team, Mr Mujic said: "I did see him [Tadic]. I guarantee that with my life. You cannot say I did not."

Mr Mujic said he knew the precise date of the incident because, two days earlier, Jasmin Hrnica, whom Mr Tadic is also accused of murdering, had shared some biscuits with his fellow prisoners

to mark his son's birthday. "I had never tasted anything so delicious," Mr Mujic told the court, "even though it was only a tiny piece."

At least 40 more witnesses will be called as the prosecution, led by Grant Niemann, a former public prosecutor in South Australia, tries to fit Mr Tadic's alleged role into the broad picture of genocide in Bosnia.

Another Muslim, Emir

Karabasic, not related to Salko, has repeatedly been cited as one of Mr Tadic's closest friends in the community. Despite their ethnic differences, the two men shared many interests and were often together in the streets and bars of Kozarac. But he will not give evidence at The Hague because, according to the charge sheet, he was beaten to death by Mr Tadic in July 1992.

Baghdad calls UN inspector a liar

BY MICHAEL BRINON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IRAQ yesterday branded Rolf Ekeus, the United Nations weapons inspector, a liar intent on prolonging sanctions, as he arrived in Baghdad on a last-ditch attempt to force Iraqi compliance with UN weapons limitations.

Baghdad's uncompromising language, after its refusal to open up defence installations to inspection, has infuriated the West. President Saddam Hussein's defiance could lead to renewed military action against Iraq.

The Iraqi state-controlled press accused Mr Ekeus and the United Nations of being a tool of the United States. "Mr Ekeus, we know you are a liar," the government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* said in a front-page editorial. It said that when the UN official insisted on access to any sites in Iraq he was deliberately trying to insult the Iraqi people and was acting like an insolent "killer cowboy".

Western diplomats said such remarks suggested further confrontation rather than a resolution of the stand-off. Last week UN inspectors were turned away from Republican Guard installations in and around Baghdad, and left the country saying that their work was being made impossible.

UN resolutions do not mandate an automatic military response if they are not met. Western governments are looking at contingency plans, however. America last attacked Iraqi installations in 1993, after the discovery of an Iraqi-backed plot to assassinate former President Bush during a visit to Kuwait.

Diplomats said that there was no discussion yet in New York on how the UN might respond to Saddam's defiance. "There are a range of measures that could be invoked," one said.

These could include new conditions for the easing of sanctions, fresh attempts to isolate Iraq diplomatically and economically, and more active support for Iraqi opposition groups.

The UN is unlikely to go back on its recent agreement to allow Iraqi oil to be sold for food and medicine, enabling the hardships suffered by ordinary Iraqis to be ameliorated. That provision has always been available, although until recently Saddam refused to take it up in order to accuse the West of deliberately causing famine and hardship.

Observers cry foul as Kremlin claims Chechen landslide

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE provisional results of the elections in Chechnia, released by the local electoral commission, show a picture that would be surreal if it were true.

The local electoral commission for Chechnia reported yesterday that there had been a turnout of 73.7 per cent by 374,016 voters in the republic. President Yeltsin, who started the war in Chechnia in December 1994, supposedly won 64.1 per cent of the vote, his highest score — higher even than the vote he won in either Moscow or his home region of Yekaterinburg.

These questionable figures were produced by the pro-Moscow Government in Chechnia, which is worried about surviving in office and persisted in going ahead with local elections to a national assembly in the republic in contradiction of the agreement signed on June 10 by Moscow and the rebel leadership. Both sides agreed then to postpone the elections until Russian troops had been withdrawn.

Benedict von Tscharnier, chairman of the permanent council of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, released a statement saying that the local polls in Chechnia "did not comply with the OSCE principles for

free and fair elections". The organisation refused to monitor the vote and the Council of Europe, which offered to do so, did not because it said its monitors were not given adequate security guarantees.

Journalists reported wide infringements. The *Moscow Times* said there were empty streets on polling day in Grozny, the capital, and that only 50 voters had turned up on Sunday at a single heavily-guarded polling station in Argun, a town which once had a population of 30,000. In the December parliamentary elections, several reporters said that they had been offered ballot papers by over-zealous officials.

Movladi Udugov, the rebels' spokesman, said that turnout had been 1 per cent. Republics neighbouring Chechnia did vote but mostly against the current President. In Dagestan, the Communist candidate won his highest level of support, 66 per cent of the vote.

Aslan Maskhadov, the top Chechen commander, said recently he would not disrupt the elections. "After what has happened here in Chechnia, if a Chechen is found who will vote or take part in these Russian elections, he is not a Chechen."

Yeltsin 'made secret election pact with Lebed'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE overnight rise of Aleksandr Lebed in Russia may have had more to do with a secret pre-election pact with the Kremlin than his charisma or campaigning skills.

According to political, financial and media sources in Moscow, the former general's unexpectedly strong showing in Sunday's presidential election was in part due to generous assistance from pro-Yeltsin figures who funded his campaign. They were responsible for General Lebed's media blitz in the closing days of the race, when slick advertisements and regular appearances on current affairs shows helped him to finish third with 15 per cent of the vote.

The agreement between Lebed and the presidential team was made before the first

round of elections," said Konstantin Borovoi, a businessman and independent member of parliament. "A lot of money was invested in Lebed, which explains why he had the second-largest advertising campaign after Yeltsin."

Observers of Russia's murky political world trace the beginnings of a Yeltsin-Lebed alliance to their first official meeting in April, when the Russian leader was scouting among the non-Communist presidential candidates for a possible ally. Although few details emerged at the time, the two men apparently embarked on detailed negotiations with the encouragement of General Aleksandr Korzhakov, the presidential security chief.

The former paratroop of-

ficer was particularly attractive to the Kremlin, because he appealed to voters who might otherwise have backed Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist candidate, or Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader.

"It was evident that Lebed and Yeltsin had something going on," said one banking source. "Quite aside from the money Lebed was receiving and the airtime he was allowed, he was the only

presidential candidate who did not attack Yeltsin."

Further confirmation of a secret deal came when President Yeltsin let slip in the closing days that he planned another meeting with General Lebed. Then, on the eve of voting, he hinted broadly that the former Afghan war hero could one day succeed him.

By that time, experts believe, the two men had not only established a strong personal bond, but had also

finalised the details of their agreement. In exchange for backing President Yeltsin in the second round run-off vote, General Lebed would be made the country's security chief and leader-in-waiting.

Michael McFaul, an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment in Moscow, said that the clearest evidence of a secret pact was the speed with which President Yeltsin announced his alliance with General Lebed, even before the final votes had been counted.

"It is inconceivable that Yeltsin would have fired Pavel Grachev (as Defence Minister), appointed Lebed to his new post and undertaken such a fundamental change unless the details had already been finalised," he said. "They had this sewn up long ago."

President to miss G7 summit

Moscow: President Yeltsin announced yesterday that he was withdrawing from next week's Group of Seven leading nations' summit in France to campaign for re-

election. He wants his run-off round against Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, to be held on July 3, a few days after the June 27-29 summit in Lyons. (Reuters)

Forgiveness for Luther off Pope's German agenda

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME



Luther: architect of the German Reformation

NEARLY 500 years after he was excommunicated for nailing up his heretical theses on the church door in Wittenberg and denying the primacy of the Pope, Martin Luther may be in sight of forgiveness by Rome.

However, on Sunday the Vatican denied that the Pope would welcome Luther back into the fold during his trip to Germany this week, saying only that the Pope was working for the reconciliation of the Roman

Catholic and Protestant traditions in a spirit of ecumenism in the run-up to the millennium, which the Pope has declared a Holy Year.

The Pope's visit to Germany, his third since his election, coincides with the 450th anniversary of Luther's death. It is already controversial because of Helmut Kohl's recent rebuff to the Vatican over birth control. The German Chancellor said this month that birth control should be a matter of individual conscience rather than doctrine.

To add to the Pope's problems,

senior German Evangelical church leaders have appealed to him to make "a gesture of ecumenical goodwill" by visiting, however briefly, a town of significance to German Protestantism. But instead his programme is being limited to Berlin, where he will visit the Brandenburg Gate and celebrate Mass at the Olympic stadium, and Paderborn, where he will beatify two German Catholic priests who opposed Nazism.

German Protestants had hoped the Pope would make a symbolic visit to the Wartburg, the castle in Thuringia

where Luther took refuge after being hounded for his refusal to recant at the Diet of Worms in 1521. The German weekly magazine *Focus* suggested last week that the Pope would go so far as to revoke Luther's excommunication.

Although the Pope has sought to build bridges to the Protestant world — he tends to refer to Luther as "Doctor Luther", a mark of his respect for Luther as a scholar — the Vatican press office denied that he would go so far as to revoke Luther's excommunication.

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Sharon demands enlarged role in Netanyahu team

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ARIEL SHARON was back in the limelight of Israeli political life yesterday, having triggered the first crisis of Benjamin Netanyahu's day-old Government.

Mr Sharon, 68, one of the Arabs and of many past Israeli leaders, was officially said to be considering an offer of the newly constructed Ministry of National Infrastructure at his sheep farm in the Negev Desert. Unofficially, Israeli commentators said that he was sulking over what was seen to have been a poor reward for his tireless campaigning on Mr Netanyahu's behalf.

The former general, whose size and style have earned him the nickname of "The Bulldozer", was reported to be demanding that the responsibilities of some other ministries be added to the new portfolio, and to be meeting strong resistance from colleagues anxious to avoid their own power bases being whittled away.

Rafael Eitan, another former general, complicated the confrontation last night by threatening to resign as Agriculture Minister if control of water resources were handed to Mr Sharon.

External tensions were also mounting yesterday as Mr Netanyahu chaired the first meeting of his Cabinet amid

growing Arab rhetoric and the first sign that Palestinians might renew the intifada, which ended in 1993.

David Levy, the new Foreign Minister, accused Arab states of inflaming the tension by calling next weekend's emergency summit in Cairo. The minister, a relative moderate in a hawkish Cabinet, added: "The tension which they are trying to produce is completely unnecessary."

Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank reported earlier that Palestinians were puncturing the tyres of speeding Jewish-owned cars with boards pierced with nails - a tactic not used since the intifada. The Tel Aviv Yedioth

Ahronot quoted a leading member of the Palestinian Authority as giving a warning that the danger of another uprising had been increased by disappointment and fear. The new Government's guidelines and Tuesday's inaugural address to the Knesset by Mr Netanyahu have been condemned by most of the Arab world.

"It was a speech of slogans," the Palestinian official said. "The Government's fundamental principles are extreme, and will only bring about a renewed intifada."

Another Palestinian source told the paper that recent terrorist attacks, in which three Jews have been killed in ambushes in eight days, were a sign of what lies ahead.

In Egypt, Amr Moussa, the Foreign Minister, was uncharacteristically vitriolic in his reaction to Mr Netanyahu's remarks. All that had been clarified was the hardening of the Israeli position, he said.

The Syria Times, a mouthpiece of President Assad's administration, said that Mr Netanyahu's guidelines - which called for expanded settlement in the occupied territories and ruled out a Palestinian state - could be described as "sabotaging the peace process".

With Mr Sharon still considering his position, one col-



Yaakov Neeman, left, and David Levy with Benjamin Netanyahu at yesterday's first meeting of the new Cabinet

umnist likened Mr Netanyahu's embarrassment after his turbulent ally demanded a top post, when all the senior Cabinet jobs had been filled, to that of an army quartermaster. "This was the moment every quartermaster dreads: across the counter stands Ariel Sharon. Only one pair of 'extra small' trousers remains on the shelf. The only trousers that will fit Sharon are 'extra large'."

Among the responsibilities that are to come under the new portfolio are the Lands Authority, the Trains and Port Authority, electricity systems, development of the huge com-

plex of bypass roads for Jewish settlers in the occupied territories, and military industries. Political sources said that Mr Sharon was also demanding a place in Mr Netanyahu's security Cabinet as part of his reward.

Few doubt that if - as expected - Mr Sharon accepts the infrastructure post, he will try again to extend the Jewish presence in the three territories seized in 1967 - the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Within the 18-member Cabinet, he will lobby for contacts with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to be kept to the barest

minimum. He once ordered the Israeli security forces to kill the man he still refers to with undisguised hatred as a terrorist and war criminal.

Mr Sharon's return to power will be seen in the Arab world as a symbol of an imminent collapse of the peace process and will be regarded with trepidation in Washington. In his recent memoirs, James Baker, the former American Secretary of State, claimed that Mr Sharon's "inflammatory rhetoric and expansionist zeal" had undermined the best efforts by Washington to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

□ Peking: Mr Arafat reacted to Mr Netanyahu's inaugural speech to the Knesset by saying that it was for the international community to respond, because the Palestinians were "not alone now" (James Pringle writes).

The Palestinian leader, on a two-day visit to China, said: "We are completely committed to the peace process." When asked where the peace process would go now after Mr Netanyahu had outlined his programme, including his pledge to pursue peace while retaining captured land, he said: "Now it is the turn of the international community."

WORLD SUMMARY

Christian Right cash for blacks

Washington: America's ultra-conservative Christian Coalition has pledged to atone for its past bigotry by raising at least \$1 million (£650,000) to rebuild burnt-out black churches in the Southern states (Martin Fletcher writes).

America's political leaders also intensified their efforts to halt a spate of arson that has destroyed 38 black churches in 18 months and appears to be gathering pace. President Clinton last night chaired a meeting of Southern governors to develop a co-ordinated strategy and asked Congress to allocate an extra \$12 million for what has become a huge federal hunt for those responsible.

Paris magistrate taken off case

Paris: Eric Halphen, the magistrate who recommended this week that Jean Tiberi, Mayor of Paris, and his son should be prosecuted on corruption charges, is to be removed from the case, judicial sources said (Susan Bell writes). M Halphen is well known for his investigations into cases of illegal funding of the ruling Gaullist RPR party and has seen several earlier inquiries quashed after he was taken off the cases.

Eta bomb maims boss's employee

Madrid: A Spanish worker at a Basque employers' organisation lost both legs when a car bomb meant for his boss went off in the northern city of San Sebastian. He was moving the car of the organisation's secretary-general, who was abroad, when the device went off inside a garage. The attack bore the hallmark of separatist Eta guerrillas, officials reported. (Reuters)

19 die in Natal ahead of poll

Durban: At least 19 people were killed in KwaZulu/Natal province during the 24 hours to Wednesday morning. The latest deaths included two people killed in their beds by unidentified attackers near Donnybrook, police said, but they gave no motives for the killings, a week before the municipal elections. (AFP)

Mother accused

Dallas: A Texas woman, Darlie Routier, 26, who had appealed for help in finding the "animal" who stabbed her two young sons to death, has been arrested and charged with the murders. (Reuters)

Australians flock to backpacker trial

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

IT IS regarded as the best free show in town. As the hitchhiker murder trial enters its fourth month, the queue for the public gallery of the New South Wales Supreme Court in Sydney stretches 50 yards down the street.

The resurgence in interest has been sparked by the unexpected appearance in the witness box of Ivan Milat, alleged to be Australia's worst serial killer. He said yesterday that evidence linking him with the murder of two young British women had nothing to do with him.

Facing his second day of cross-examination, the 51-year-old roadworker was shown rags, a camera, photographs and a sash cord found in his home at the time of his arrest. A rag similar to material in his possession had been used to gag Joanne Walters, 22, from Mid Glamorgan.

A camera identical to one belonging to Caroline Clarke

from Northumbria, was found in his bungalow. A photograph in a family album showed his girlfriend, Chantelle Hughes, wearing a Benetton top identical to one owned by Clarke, also 22. In addition, a bloodstained sash cord, which DNA tests earlier linked with Clarke, was found in his garage. The police also found in the garage plastic cable ties identical to ones that had been used as a restraining device on a German couple, who were among the seven victims.

Shown the evidence, Mr Milat continued to deny the allegations. "I suggest you were involved in the death of Caroline Clarke," Mark Tedeschi, for the prosecution, said. "I was not," the defendant replied.

"Can you explain those coincidences?" the lawyer asked. "I have no explanation at all," he replied. The trial continues.



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Sleaze

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Sleaze emerges as the trickiest hurdle for President in re-election race

BY TIM HAMES

EVEN before the damning report of the Senate Whitewater committee or the scathing words of the FBI director over the files on leading Republicans demanded by the White House, President Clinton's lead in the polls had slumped from 22 percentage points to six, largely because of political scandal.

Every other recent analysis has shown a similar trend. The assorted sleaze effect offers the biggest threat to what has been a smooth-running Clinton re-election machine. All surveys at this stage of the

campaign have to be issued with an exceptionally large health warning. Voters rarely think in concrete terms about their choice until after the two national party conventions. Nonetheless, they are a good indicator about the standing of an incumbent President, although impressions of the challenging candidate, even one as experienced as Bob Dole, remain hazy.

For a long time, professional pundits have said that scandal would have no real impact on the Clinton candidature. He was known to be an imperfect proposition in 1992 and still was elected.

Furthermore, while the residents of Washington might be fascinated by these matters, there was no evidence that Americans outside the capital had a similar interest. Until recently, there was little to refuse that argument. Now the tide may have turned.

If so, it has happened for two reasons. First, there is the sheer collective weight of the charges levelled at the Clintons. Besides Whitewater, which contains half a dozen plots of its own, there is "Travelgate", centred on the use of political cronies at the behest of Hillary Clinton, and now the

improper acquisition of FBI material on political opponents. There is also the continuing sexual harassment case brought against the President. The average citizen can hardly avoid encountering at least one of these items.

Second, it is becoming harder to dismiss all this as a Republican plot. Senators may be easy to label as partisan and, at a long stretch, even a special prosecutor could be accused of bias. The FBI director, Secret Service agents' reports on the events surrounding Vincent Foster's office on the night of his death, and an Arkansas jury are

impossible to portray as Dole political stooges. The more that ordinary people are seen giving evidence, the worse for the White House. The American media have followed that logic. This week David Broder, a political journalist on the Democrat-leaning *The Washington Post*, directly questioned if Mr Clinton was fit for a second term. To compound his potential problems, with his opponents controlling Congress, he has no real domestic agenda.

His hopes of making a showcase of his foreign policy success with triumphs in Bosnia, the Middle

East and Northern Ireland have collapsed through the combination of Radovan Karadzic, Binyamin Netanyahu and Gerry Adams. Further, Mr Dole has received favourable coverage after his extremely dignified exit from the Senate and his efforts to soften his party's position on abortion.

Given that the election is nearly five months off, opinion polls are bound to be volatile. However, it is hard to believe that another battering on Whitewater and the FBI files will not have a further impact. The critical numbers to watch are those of Mr Clinton rather than those of

his adversary. In a two-man race, a sitting President whose approval ratings fall much below 50 per cent is unlikely to be re-elected against a challenger of any basic plausibility. Mr Dole clearly is sufficiently credible, especially when measured by the yardstick of Governor Clinton four years ago.

For all its confident swagger until now, the White House may find itself hoping for salvation in the shape of Ross Perot again splitting the anti-Clinton vote.

Dr Tim Hames is Lecturer in Politics at Christ Church, Oxford.

Clinton aide faces plot charge in Whitewater affair

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Whitewater scandal moved still closer to the Oval Office last night with an announcement that one of President Clinton's closest advisers is to be named as a participant in a criminal conspiracy.

Lawyers for two Arkansas bankers accused of illegally funneling bank funds into Mr Clinton's 1990 gubernatorial campaign revealed that Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, is about to name Bruce Lindsey, the campaign treasurer, as an unindicted co-conspirator. Jury selection for the trial began on Monday.

Mr Lindsey, now a member of Mr Clinton's inner circle and one of the last surviving Arkansians in the Clinton White House, insisted that he did nothing wrong.

The President expressed confidence in him and the White House said that he would remain in his job, but the news was yet another blow to the image of an Administration reeling from a string of adverse developments.

In recent days, an Arkansas jury has convicted Mr Clinton's former business partners and his successor as Arkansas Governor, the White House has been caught with 400 FBI files on Republican officials, and the Republican-controlled Senate Whitewater Committee has published a damning report on Hillary Clinton's alleged wrongdoings.

Prosecutors generally name someone as an unindicted co-

conspirator if they have strong but not conclusive evidence of that person's guilt.

Mr Lindsey twice accepted substantial contributions from the two bankers in 1990 and also took out a \$30,000 (£19,000) loan from their bank that it concealed from regulators. After the election, Mr Clinton appointed Herby Branscum to an important state job and reappointed Robert Hill to another.

The scandal over misappropriated FBI files also deepened

Even if it was an innocent mistake, the files may have brought this to a critical mass

for President Clinton yesterday as some Republicans threatened to sue the White House for invasion of privacy and others questioned the impartiality of an internal investigation into the affair.

Former White House counsels and directors of personnel security for Presidents Bush, Reagan, Carter and Ford, were summoned to testify on Capitol Hill as hearings opened into how the White House in 1993 and 1994 had improperly obtained FBI documents on more than 400

employees of past Republican Administrations.

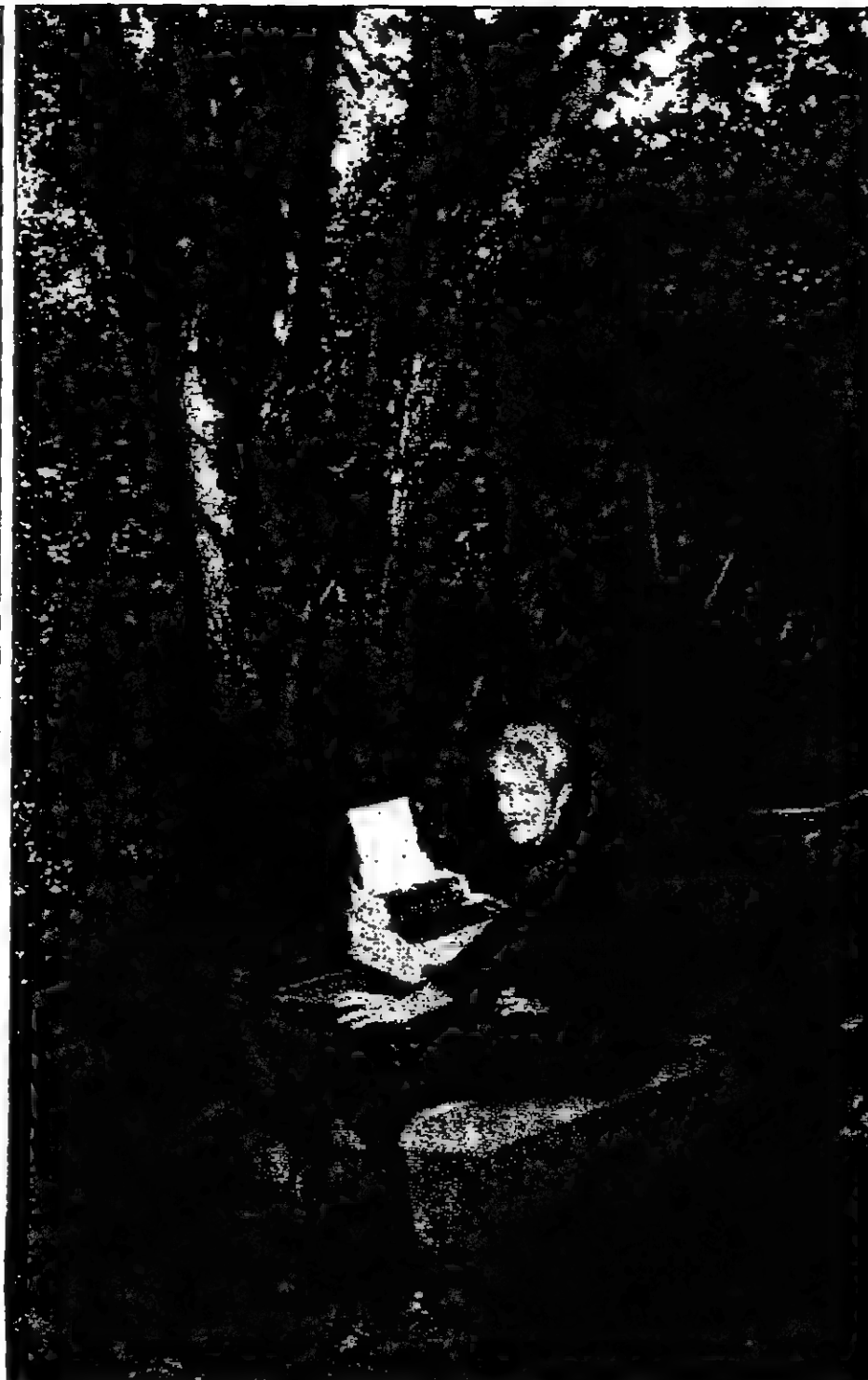
In an attempt at damage limitation, the White House formally replaced Craig Livingstone, the personnel security chief at the heart of the controversy, with Charles Easley, a veteran civil servant hired during the Reagan Administration.

The previous night, Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, had launched a "complete and thorough" investigation by the FBI which for the first time would involve countless interviews with White House staff about the files. Mr Starr said that he lacked the jurisdiction to investigate the matter himself.

Bringing further prominence to the issue, some leading Republicans whose files Mr Livingstone obtained in 1993 said they were contemplating filing a class action lawsuit against the White House.

Loyal White House staff and Democrats on Capitol Hill are even wondering whether the Administration may have shot itself in the foot by placing a relatively inexperienced political aide such as Mr Livingstone in so sensitive a position.

"Even if it was an innocent bureaucratic mistake — which I am sure it was — the files just may have brought this to a critical mass where voters are no longer prepared to give the Clintons the benefit of the doubt," admitted one Democratic staffer privately.



Anna Roosevelt, whose research challenged the history of American settlements

Experts attack new theory on first Americans

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ANNA ROOSEVELT, a great-granddaughter of Theodore Roosevelt, the former US President, was criticised yesterday for slovenly scholarship after she identified Stone Age Amazonian cave paintings as proof of the earliest settlement in America.

Miss Roosevelt, 50, an archaeologist, presented newly found prehistoric art on cave walls in the Amazon jungle and challenged the long-held theory that man first reached America by migrating across the ice-bound Bering Strait from Asia. She argued that South American settlements as early as 11,000 BC predated any Bering arrivals.

Her thesis blew a hole in cherished notions of the continent's bison-chasing ancestors, the Paleoindians. Miss Roosevelt also derided "Victorian England's" image of Stone Age women as cave-proud housewives who stayed by the hearth while the men hunted for food. She said that they, too, foraged.

Yesterday, however, Miss Roosevelt was criticised by a senior member of the Smithsonian Institution for her "spurious" claims. Betty Meggers, a veteran American prehistorian, said that Miss Roosevelt's claims were not subjected to rigorous peer review and did not contain adequate "corrective analysis". Other senior archaeologists wrote letters of dissent to *Science*, the journal which published Miss Roosevelt's vivid claims in April.

One critic of her work said: "The fact that she is a Roosevelt means she has high-level contacts. She has been using her patrician muscle."

Miss Roosevelt, who is attached to the University of Illinois, found food waste, spearheads and paintings in a cave in Brazil's Monte Alegre region. Dating of 50 samples suggested the cave was inhabited for more than a millennium, starting as early as 11,000BC. Were these earlier Americans than the Asians who crossed the Bering Strait? People speculated that Miss Roosevelt's settlers were the forebears of the Aztecs, the forefathers of early Andean civilisations. The crucible of American civilisation shifted from the northern plains to Miss Roosevelt's hot little cave in Amazonia.

Pleasant descriptions of Miss Roosevelt appeared in American newspapers, praising her "ground-breaking" work and hinting at a female version of Indiana Jones. The *New York Times* described her tomboyish field garb of blue jeans and untucked shirt, topped by horn-rimmed glasses and pale complexion. Her ten-hour days were detailed, as was her brisk approach to discipline among co-workers. "We should do more work and less chatting," she would bark. Anyone interrupting her dig was likely to have a trowel thrown at him.

The trowels are now flying in a different direction. A University of Kentucky Paleoindian expert, Thomas Dillehay, questioned Miss Roosevelt's separation of the layers of the cave floor. Other archaeologists raised questions about her presentation of carbon-dating test results, which can have a wide margin of error.

Junta in call for Suu Kyi dialogue

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Burmese Government yesterday denied that it was about to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, and said it was trying to promote a dialogue with her.

The denial followed speculation that the State Law and Order Restoration Council was going to crack down again on Daw Suu Kyi after defiant rallies and her attempt to organise a meeting of her National League for Democracy. The Nobel Peace Prize-winner was released from six years' house arrest last July.

A Burmese newspaper com-



Suu Kyi: urged to show "flexibility"

mentary said the Government knew that dialogue was needed for genuine reconciliation. It was therefore establishing cordial relations for peace. But it called on the opposition to show flexibility instead of what it called "dogmatic, destructive spirits".

Burma's military regime has given out confusing signals in recent weeks, at times appearing to be ready for a dialogue with Daw Suu Kyi, and at others signalling a new tough line. Newspapers yesterday also attacked outside interference in Burmese affairs, an apparent reference to a recent Asian tour by two US envoys trying to co-ordinate a response to the increased tension between Burma's Government and the opposition.

Leading article, page 21

Gunman confesses to 'Zodiac' killings

BY QUENTIN LETTS

A HIGHLY disturbed man who surrendered to police after a gunfight has confessed to being the "Zodiac" killer, who terrorised New York six years ago.

Heriberto Seda, 29, a ponytailed oddball, admitted he was the man who in 1989 vowed to kill 12 people — one for each sign of the Zodiac. The Zodiac killer is suspected of taking three lives, and is credited with four other violent attacks. The series of attacks created much public unease.

Mr Seda was arrested on Tuesday after a three and a half hour police siege of his family house in Brooklyn. During the stand-off, he fired numerous rounds at police barricades and before he gave himself up, surrendered 13 homemade guns which he placed in a bucket lowered from the building's roof. A cache of weaponry, pipe bombs, devil worship books, crossbows, knives and bomb-making manuals was later found at his apartment elsewhere in the city.

During the siege, Mr Seda wore what appeared to be a helmet or saucerpan on his head. Neighbours said he had a history of lunacy, and

recalled that last week he stood in the middle of the street and declared, at high volume: "I'm going to start killing. I'm going to start killing... because I'm not getting no sex." One of his sisters, Gladys, said: "Mother never gave him no attention."

Angel Rodriguez, a Brooklyn resident, said: "It looked like World War Three. People were yelling. It was like a crazy TV flick."

The link to the Zodiac killer was made when Mr Seda signed his confession to the stand-off crimes with an astrological mark. His fingerprints were later found to match those of the killer who stalked New York's streets in the early 1980s and who sent taunting messages to newspapers.

Mr Seda, who consulted the Bible at regular intervals during police questioning, later confessed to being the Zodiac killer. He said of the Zodiac's victims: "They were bad. They were evil people."

A police official said: "It looks like we've got him."

'Three strikes' strangler convicted

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

A MAN linked since 1993 to a killing that triggered the campaign for California's controversial "three strikes" law has been convicted of murder and could now face the death penalty.

As the verdict was read in a trial that has simmered with tension since it began, Richard Allen Davis turned to a television camera in court and made an obscene gesture that prosecutors plan to use as evidence of a lack of remorse when he is sentenced.

Minutes later Marc Klaas, the father of Davis's victim, 12-year-old Polly Klaas, applauded the jury for having "brought the hammer of the law down on this son of a bitch as hard as it's ever going to come."

Mr Klaas was an ardent advocate of the legislation which requires a life sentence after three criminal convictions. Davis, who has spent 17 of the past 21 years in jail, was on parole when he abducted Polly from a "slumber party" and strangled her.

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The height of pilot humour

The chance that thousands of holidays and business trips will be thrown into chaos this summer is now a distinct possibility.

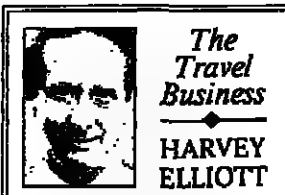
We should know the worst within two weeks when the result of a strike ballot among more than 3,000 British Airways pilots is published. Indications from an opinion poll suggest that they could be ready to walk out — right at the summer peak.

It is curious that pilots, who are regarded as among the calmest of professionals, should now be getting so excited that they are prepared to ground Britain's biggest airline and dent its image, and their own too.

However strong their case, it will be difficult for them to elicit much sympathy from the public when the salaries of the most senior pilots nudge £100,000 a year and they retire at 55, even though the most junior earn under £20,000.

The likelihood still is that BA will back down or that the pilots will compromise. But it has not come to a strike ballot before and a settlement is by no means a foregone conclusion.

The reasons for the pilots' actions are many and highly technical and the airline may not have handled the problems as well as it might. So I make no judgment on which side has the best case. It would, however, be a pity if the image of pilots were to be



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

tarnished by an industrial dispute.

Not only are pilots skilful and professional, they can also be delightfully cynical and witty — as this selection from a list of flight deck aphorisms published in the latest issue of the pilots' union magazine, *The Log*, clearly shows:

□ Things go right gradually, but things go wrong all at once.
□ There is no limit to how bad things can get.
□ Don't believe in miracles — rely on them.

□ A bird in the hand is safer than one in an engine.
□ Anything adjustable sooner or later needs adjusting.
□ No two identical parts are alike.

□ If you consult enough experts you can confirm any opinion.

□ No one is watching until you make a mistake.

□ If you explain it so clearly that nobody can misunderstand, somebody will.

□ When in doubt, predict that the trend will continue. Let us hope that the dispute is resolved. Otherwise another of their aphorisms may prove to be all too apposite: It always ends up costing more than you think.

Bargains of the week — latest offers on holidays, travel and accommodation

HOLIDAYS

BRAC, the white stone island off Croatia's Adriatic coast, is welcoming tourists again with Phoenix Holidays offering a week's bed and breakfast hotel accommodation for £366 a person with a flight from Gatwick on June 28 and for £351 with a flight from Manchester on July 3. Details: 0345 626468.

■ **CYCLING** through the Loire Valley on an organised trip departing next Monday is available from Explore Worldwide. The 13-day holiday costs £635 a person, including return flights, bed and breakfast at hotels en route, 18-gear mountain bikes and luggage-moving service. Details: 01252 319448.

■ **SRI LANKA** all-inclusive for £579 a person for 12 nights with a flight from Heathrow next Tuesday is on offer from Holiday Place, with accommodation at the three-star Pegasus Reef Hotel. Details: 0171-435 8071.

■ **FUERTEVENTURA** for a fortnight's self-catering holiday is available for £229 a person, a saving of £265 on the brochure price, with a flight from Manchester on June 26 from Unijet. Details: 01444 459000.

■ **CONSERVATION** holidays working with the National Trust are still available in June for £42 a week, including working on fences on the Holnicote estate in the Quantock Hills, and walling and riverbank work in Lydford Gorge, Dartmoor. Details: 01285 644727.

■ **DISCOUNTS** are on offer from Secret Spain for last-minute bookings for villas in the Asturias region, available from June 27, with reduced fares available on P&O and Brittany Ferries services to Bilbao and Santander. Details: 01449 737664.

■ **EGYPTIAN** adventure tours, departing July 2 and 30, are available for £459 a person, a saving of £70, from Top Deck. The 15-day holiday includes three nights on a felucca down the Nile, two nights in a tent village and a week in a 3-star hotel. Details: 0171-244 3641.

■ **VIRGIN** Holidays is targeting Washington to mark Virgin Atlantic's new service from Heathrow to the US capital. Fly-drive holidays, July 1 to 21, start from £299 a person, including a week's car hire. Five nights at a city-centre hotel cost an extra £100. Details: 01293 61781.



Brac, an island off Croatia, welcomes tourists again with a week's accommodation for £366

FERRIES

STENA Line is cutting 50 per cent off Dover-Calais returns through selected travel agents, reducing standard summer prices to £129. Details: 0990 707070.

■ **HOVERSPEED** is matching Le Shuttle's summer fare of £129 on its Dover-Calais route (€109 until July 15). It also has a £109 fare on the Folkestone-Boulogne route (€99). Five-day fares from Dover cost £69. Details: 01304 240241.

■ **DRIVELINE** Europe also has five-day Dover-Calais crossings for £89 for a car and five passengers, and standard returns for £139. Details: 01707 660011.

■ **P&O EUROPEAN** Ferries has a 36-hour return fare from Portsmouth to Le Havre or Cherbourg for £19, for a car and up to five passengers (£10 supplement for Friday night, additional passengers £5). A ten-day fare is £149, for a car and two passengers (£10 supplement for Friday, additional passengers £9). Both available until September 30. Details: 0990 980980.

■ **SALLY** Ferries is selling £79.20 returns on its routes from Ramsgate to Ostend and Dunkirk until December 23 (£69 to June 30), and has a £40 five-day return. Details: 0800 636465.

FLIGHTS

INTRODUCTORY fares from £39 one way are being offered by the new carrier Debonair for flights linking Luton with Barcelona, Madrid and Munich. Details: 0500 146200.

■ **BRITISH** Airways and the Chilean airline DAP have the first scheduled link between Britain and the Falkland Islands. Flights, via Santiago, cost from £1,340 or £940 for relatives and resident families. Details: 0345 222111.

■ **SABENA** has introduced a £75 Saver fare allowing "open jaw" flexibility. So you can fly from Heathrow to Brussels and return to London City or vice-versa. Alternatively fly to Antwerp and back from Brussels. Details: 0181-780 1444.

■ **AB Shannon** has introduced business class between Gatwick and Shannon. Tickets cost between £165 and £195 return. Details: 0345 464748. And Aer Lingus has improved its business class between the UK and Ireland with wider seats and upgraded catering. Details: 0181-590 4747.

■ **TRAVEL** Warehouse charges £79 for round-trip tickets to Zurich flying from Luton with the Swiss carrier Edelweiss Air. The fare is valid year-round on selected days of the week. Details: 0171-444 5825.

HOTELS

THE Montpelier Plantation Inn resort on the Caribbean island of Nevis has a three-weeks-for-the-price-of-two offer from £1,370 a person, including flights. Details: 01244 897990.

■ **ISTANBUL'S** five-star Dovan hotel is celebrating its 40th anniversary in July with a 40 per cent discount rate, minimum two nights. Bookings are through the Summit Hotels Reservation system. Details: 0800 556555.

■ **WHITBREAD** Hotels this week opened its 117th and largest Travel Inn budget hotel at Morrison Street, Edinburgh. The 128-room hotel is priced at £35.50 a room a night. Details: 01582 414341.

■ **LEARN** to prepare and cook an Italian dinner party with the Hyde Park Hotel's resident Italian chef, Ralph Porciani, on the weekend of July 13. The two-day masterclass costs £199 a person (based on two sharing), including accommodation, meals and seminar. Single supplement is £95. Details: 0171-235 2000.

■ **THE** five member hotels of the Stagecoach Hotels group have launched a club for visitors aged over 55, including 25 per cent discounts on food. Details: 01256 398375.

■ **THE** Savoy Hotel in London has a special "Winemakers' dinner on July 3 created by the chef Anton Edelmann at which wine experts will discuss accompanying wines. Price is £65 a person, with a maximum of 30 guests. Details: 0171-430 2350.

■ **THE** Chester Grosvenor Hotel, 40 minutes' drive from Manchester airport, is cutting prices by 50 per cent during July and August. Rates are £60 a person a night based on two sharing, including full English breakfast. Details: 01244 324024.

■ **THE** Cadogan Hotel in Sloane Street, London, has a special London touring weekend from August 10, with two night accommodation, dinner and a guided tour around Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London and St Paul's Cathedral. The price is £249 a person and there is no single supplement. Details: 0171-235 7141.

■ **FORTY** of Forte's Heritage Hotels are offering summer midweek rates from £40 a person a night during July and August. Details: 0345 700350.

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Brussels gets tough on British passports

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE ARREST of a 76-year-old widow as she tried to enter Belgium without a passport has highlighted the increasing difficulty of travelling around Europe — if you are British.

Seven European countries — Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Portugal and Spain — have signed the "Schengen agreement" enabling their citizens to travel without each other's passport, provided they have a recognised identity card.

But Britons, and travellers from other countries which have not signed such an

agreement, are being subjected to the same sort of rigorous checks which existed long before Britain joined the European Union.

Airlines have complained that this has created a two-tier travel regime, with some passengers able to pass unhindered through immigration while those from Britain are directed to a slow queue and have their passports examined minutely.

Passports are either checked on the Eurostar to Paris or subject to cursory inspection on arrival. On the train to Brussels, however, there are no such checks, and

on arrival passengers from Britain are routinely delayed by over-zealous police and immigration staff.

A spokesman for the Belgian Embassy in London said yesterday that the policeman who stopped Enid Wilson as she tried to visit her son, an EU official in Brussels, was "just doing his job".

"The regulations are quite clear," he said. "You must have a valid British passport to travel. You do not have identity cards in Britain so a passport is the only form of identity for travel."

"There have been a number of cases of this sort and we have asked Eurostar if they would make a check on passports before passengers board, as they do on the airlines. This would prevent such silly incidents as this from happening."

Eurostar has, however, rejected the idea. "It is not that simple," said a spokesman. "Not everyone who travels on the train comes from Britain or from Europe and some people need special visas. It would be impossible for our staff to check all the documents

and we argue that this is a matter between the two governments rather than for the carrier."

Eurostar is, however, planning to make the warning signs on the ticket indicating that passports will be needed far more noticeable than at present. And the Foreign Office said that it was examining ways of checking passports before passengers boarded the train, or of giving clear announcements both in the terminal and on the platform.

Now that the Home Office has withdrawn both the British

Excursion document and the British Visitors' Passport, the only document which is valid for travel is the full passport which costs £18. The Home Office is examining options for introducing identity cards which could double as both a passport and a driving licence.

Moving around Europe is now easy for countries in the "Schengen" agreement. Flights from Spain to France, for example, are now regarded as internal or domestic with no more controls than are used for passengers flying between London and Edinburgh.

Italy, Greece and Austria are about to implement the agreement, creating a vast document-free travel zone at the heart of Europe. Only Britain and Ireland remain outside.

Britain decided that its boundaries had to be protected from illegal immigrants who might try to gain access through a third country within Europe, and refused to sign the Schengen agreement.

Now British passengers — especially those who forget their passport, or assume that they no longer need it — are being made to suffer the consequences.

Fodor takes gay lead

By TONY DAW

THE FIRST step towards recognising the power of the "pink pound" in the travel business comes today with the publication of Fodor's Gay USA.

The first comprehensive guide to be produced by a mainstream publisher, it provides essential information about transport, hotels, restaurants, banks and emergency numbers in 29 major American cities and resorts.

Its publication follows research in the United States which found that gays and lesbians represent an \$8 billion travel market and spend more money on tourism than any other consumer group.

The guide will be followed by more detailed ones on New York City, San Francisco and the Bay area, and Los Angeles and Southern California, and Fodor is also considering publishing gay guides to European cities including London.

Katharine Leck, Fodor's product manager, says: "Many other travel guides claim to have information for women, the disabled and gays but often it amounts only to a page or two. The purpose of the USA guide is not to identify ghettos but to point out places where a warm welcome is assured."

Gay travellers in Britain have to rely on specialist magazines for information about where they might be welcome, but Philippe Swain of the British Tourist Authority says that its New York office does occasionally target gays and lesbians as part of a programme to promote Britain to "young urban trends".

Some British cities and resorts, including Edinburgh, Blackpool and Brighton, have already established a reputation as being gay-friendly and local agencies are happy to provide information.

● Fodor's Gay USA, Fodor's Travel Publications, £14.99

Squeeze on cheap air seats

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

CHEAP stand-by scheduled airline tickets and concessionary staff fares are under threat because of a growth in the number of passengers prepared to pay full price to ensure getting a seat on increasingly crowded aircraft.

Airlines are now selling record numbers of seats, especially in business class, and as a result profits are booming. A combination of an improvement in the economic climate for several countries and the use of sophisticated "yield management" techniques now ensures that almost every seat is filled on most flights.

So few unsold seats are now available that airlines are having to tell staff that they will not be able to claim their free or 10 per cent concessionary tickets on many of the popular routes, holders of Air Miles are finding it increasingly difficult to get a flight and some stand-by fares have been scrapped altogether.

Airline staff are attracted to the industry by the "perks" which often consist of unlimited numbers of tickets at 10 per cent of the normal price. After a certain length of service many staff are then entitled to at least one free flight a year and their immediate relatives can also benefit.

But such tickets are only sold "subject to availability" and now employees are routinely told that they cannot travel at peak times or on the most popular routes.

In an attempt to solve the problem British Airways has introduced the Travel Hotline, an in-house travel agency

which sells tickets to its 55,000 staff, and possibly four times as many dependants, at less than full fare but at much higher prices than they would normally be entitled to under the concessions.

"It has worked very well because the tickets they sell are confirmed space, just as those sold to passengers," said a spokesman.

The International Air Transport Association (Iata) said in London yesterday that its 239 member airlines were expecting to make a total profit of more than \$6 billion (£3.9 billion) this year — their best results for more than ten years. One of the main reasons was that the number of seats on offer had either remained static or had been reduced by most carriers, while the number of passengers continued to increase.

The extra demand meant that prices, too, had gone up and the average load factor had soared to almost 70 per cent. There was now very little availability on the most popular routes and the only aircraft with empty seats were flying between cities with little attraction for leisure travellers seeking a bargain.

The total number of airline passengers last year increased by nearly 4 per cent to reach 1,107 million. The numbers are expected to double again within the next ten years, and for the first time the industry is cautiously optimistic that it will be able to make enough profit to invest in the costly new aircraft which will be needed to meet demand.



The Cape Bluebird, which is enjoying a South Africa travel boom, is flying charters to Cape Town from November

South Africa fares slashed

By STEVE KEENAN

THE COST of flying to South Africa has been slashed as competition on the route intensifies. Bluebird Express has reduced July and August fares from £599 to £399 on its Johannesburg charter with Caledonian Airways.

But while the UK market is growing, fares competition from European airlines has caused the cuts this summer, claims Bluebird managing director John Deverell.

"We are cutting prices to

compete with airlines like Alitalia and Olympic (Greece)," he says. "We thought prices would hold up but what has happened is that airlines such as Alitalia have introduced daily flights and have a lot of capacity. Alitalia currently has fares for travel via Rome for £513. British Airways also has a World Offers fare of £579. Competition is set to intensify further this winter, the peak period for travel to South Africa. A Britannia charter from the UK to Johannesburg starts in November, while Virgin Atlantic is due to start a service from October 2, competing with BA and South African Airways on the routes."

Bluebird also introduces charters to Cape Town and Durban from November 1.

The company has operated 42 flights to Johannesburg since last December, carrying 8,500 people to South Africa. Since opening an office in Johannesburg in March, the proportion of business from SA has grown to 25 per cent.

"The initial interest in South Africa has been phenomenal and we want to keep that alive. But two-thirds of people say they won't go unless the fares are there," says Mr Deverell.

Book early for a room with a five-star view

By DAVID CHURCHILL

LONDON'S leading luxury hotels have for the first time topped earnings of £100,000 per room per year as a result of the strong demand for top accommodation in the capital.

A 1996 hotel survey by consultants Horwath UK shows that the annual revenue per room from five-star hotels in London is now a record £106,940, almost three times the £35,497 earned from four-star first-class hotel rooms. Economy hotels, two star and below, generate only £15,050 per room.

Room revenue is based not only on achieved room rates — an average of £122.26 per night last year at London's luxury hotels — but also on spending on food and beverages, telephone charges, laundry and other services.

Jonathan Bodender, chairman of Horwath UK, says the

figures show that "even in an age of supposed austerity, demand in both occupancy and profitability per room is strongest for London's luxury hotels, who continue to attract high-spending visitors."

Such luxury hotels used to have low occupancy rates during the summer months when business travellers were scarce, but most hotels in the capital now report strong bookings all summer as executives seem unwilling or unable to take time off during traditional holiday periods.

While some holiday bargains in top hotels are still available, these are more dependent on room availability than before. One London luxury hotelier said: "We have to offer these bargains to leisure customers at this time of the year because everyone else seems to do so. But we

could really fill our rooms with business people paying close to full rates."

Buoyant bookings for top hotels in London and other capital cities is causing a severe shortage of space for top executives, show-business personalities and sports stars, who are used to booking in automatically.

"It can be a bit of a nightmare at times," admits Michael Gray, general manager of the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel in Knightsbridge. "The stars are very keen to ensure they have the top suite when they stay."

Recently Sylvester Stallone decamped to the Dorchester in a huff because Madonna was already in place in the £1,500 a night Presidential Suite at the Hyatt. "We hope he comes back next time," said Mr Gray.

Spain cleans up its beaches

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

BRITONS intending to spend their summer holiday on a Spanish beach are more likely to encounter clean, unpolluted conditions than visitors to any other European coastline, according to an environmentalist consumer group.

Spain has been awarded 329 "blue flags" by the European Federation of Environmental Education, more than France, Italy, Greece or Portugal, the other leading British holiday destinations on the Continent.

The blue flag, which effectively places a beach in the first division, is awarded on the basis of the quality of the water, the helpfulness of signposts, beach hygiene, general security, water safety and lifeguard protection. Spain has this year won 22 more citations than in 1995, and boasts just under a quarter of all the blue flags awarded.

The flags are evenly distributed across Spain's 2,000 km coastline, although there are some notable first-time awards. The city of Barcelona, for example, has been commended for its beaches at Mar Bella, Bogatell and Sant Sebastià.

The Basque city of San Sebastián, on the Bay of Biscay, has recovered its blue flags for the beaches at La Concha and Ondarreta. Newly acclaimed for their standards, too, are beaches at Ansole in Lanzarote, San Severa and Lluçmajor in Majorca, Torrealba in Fuengirola, La Carlhuela in Torremolinos and Levant in Benidorm.

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Le Shuttle ends DIY cash saver

CANNY Channel Tunnel travellers have been saving money by buying two Le Shuttle rail tickets rather than one, Harvey Elliott writes.

Special day return tickets for a car and passengers could be bought for as little as £29, Tony Walton bought two £29 tickets and used the outbound portion of one on a Friday and the return portion of the other on the Sunday. "But Le Shuttle noticed and surcharged me £64.50 for a single return journey," he said.

Le Shuttle says: "Technically it was not illegal, but we had to do something. Our new basic return fare is £129. The cheapest day return now costs £49 and can be used only between 10am and 6pm."

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Excessive exposure can lead to early wrinkles

Victims of the sun

SMART as they were, three out of the four enormous exotic Ascot hats pictured in *The Times* yesterday would not have protected their wearers' face from the sun. When dressing for Ascot, the last concern of Claire Callot, from Provence, would probably have been her complexion in 20 years' time. But if she had read this week's *Pulse*, she might have thought again.

The magazine has recently published a series of coloured photographs illustrating a review by Tim Mitchell, a doctor in Bristol University's dermatology department, about the sun's effect on the skin. Dr Mitchell's pictures do not illustrate the range of tumours that can be triggered by over-exposure to the sun but they do show its effect on the complexion and how it accelerates the ageing process.

The complexion is particularly vulnerable in people who spend 50 weeks a year in a dark city office and two weeks sunbathing in the Mediterranean. People who are constantly exposed to the weather — for example, enthusiastic gardeners — do not seem to suffer to the same extent.

Dr Mitchell explains that not all the lines on a face are caused by sunlight: the deep creases that furrow the brow, or divide the



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

cheek from the nose and lips (the nasolabial grooves), are, he says, the result of the effect of gravity on facial tissues rendered lax by ageing.

On the other hand, it is the sun that causes the multitude of fine lines that can be etched across the face of those who have had too much of it. The signs of excessive exposure to sun manifest themselves first as fine creases and wrinkles around the eyes. Eventually, the skin of the whole face and forehead is creased and lined.

As well as damaging the structure of the skin itself, the sun weakens connective tissue of the blood vessels. The dark purple bruise spots seen on the back of older people's hands and arms are more common in sun-worshippers than in people who cover up.

Younger people, too young to show the bruises of old age, develop bright red spots and enlarged veins in their complexion when the walls of the small blood vessels are weakened by sunlight.

The complexion in people exposed in their latter years to too much ultraviolet light assumes a sallow tone. The physiological reason for this is unknown, but this change is marked on the sides and back of the neck: the same areas where deep lines are the fault not of the sun, but of gravity.

Curing one dose with another



PEPYS, in his diaries, didn't distinguish between gonorrhoea and NSU (nonspecific urethritis), which produce similar symptoms. He described both as gleet and tended to discount them as the cost of having a varied sex life.

Gonorrhoea is now thought of by the layman as being the more dangerous, and certainly less socially acceptable. The symptoms of chlamydia, the organism which causes NSU, are usually less dramatic than those of gonorrhoea, but can be more damaging. Chlamydial infections, being less acute, can pass undetected while they insidiously destroy the lining of the Fallopian tubes, leaving women infertile.

Dr Elizabeth Carlin and Dr Simon Barton of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital have written in the *International Journal of Sexually Transmitted Disease* about the use of a new antibiotic, Zithromax (azithromycin), in the treatment of NSU. Unlike other treatments which require courses of antibiotics, azithromycin can be taken as one large dose by mouth.

A greater number of the contacts of the patients treated with the one-dose treatment attended the clinic for examination than did the partners of patients who had been prescribed the longer course of antibiotics, which was formerly standard therapy.

Pouring oil on troubled waters



ASPIRIN and fish oil are two homely substances which are rapidly assuming the status of 20th-century wonder drugs. The latest use of fish oil, described in a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, is in the treatment of Crohn's disease.

The disorder is an inflammatory disease of the gastro-intestinal tract which usually starts before the age of 30 and can attack any part of the gut from the mouth to the anus. The ulcers of Crohn's are deep and involve all layers of the intestinal wall. The disease causes pain, diarrhoea, fever, weight loss and sometimes intestinal obstruction.

The report describes the effect of giving fish oil to 78 Italian patients with Crohn's, whose disease was in remission. All had a strong likelihood of suffering a relapse in the near future.

The patients were divided into two groups. One half was given placebo while the other half took nine capsules of fish oil daily. By the end of the first year, 11 of the 39 patients taking fish oil had relapsed, while 27 of the 39 on placebo had developed further trouble.

By the end of the second year, twice as many of those on fish oil, rather than on placebo, had relapsed. Fish oil should not be confused with fish liver oil.

The sensuality game



America has banned Claudia Schiffer's lingerie ad. But are ads necessary at all? Giles Coren reports

The tall blonde tugs at her underwear as she gyrates to the beat of jungle drums. "Every day," she breathes softly at the camera, "every sexy way." A hopeful young starlet waylaid by the lure of softcore pornography? Not at all. It is supermodel Claudia Schiffer performing in a 30-second commercial for lingerie company Victoria's Secret.

But the major US networks have refused to run it. Not only has the lingerie company been asked to submit a toned-down version of the commercial, but ABC has refused to run even the tamer version before 10pm, while NBC and CBS have imposed a 9pm watershed on Ms Schiffer's saucy sales pitch. It is all a far cry from those Playtex Cross-Your-Heart Bra ads of the 1970s, where a woman in flesh-coloured undies demonstrated the redoubtable bra-siere's ability to "lift and separate".

Victoria's Secret, clearly

aware of the profit-inducive publicity such an uproar might generate, may have taken its lead from Calvin Klein, whose underwear advertisements last year, apparently using under-age models in provocative poses, incited the fury of pro-family Christian groups in America and led to their withdrawal.

While the furor rages on the other side of the Atlantic, we are experiencing a wave of national soul-searching ourselves. All over the country vast posters are appearing that show a beautiful woman, dressed only in her underwear, reclining on a bed of straw. Above her the legend runs: "Who said women can't get pleasure from something soft?" Certainly not the woman who visited one near the Old Vic in central London, and sprayed "Sad Sexists" all over it in red paint.

The incident, not an isolated one, is reminiscent of one of the most defaced poster campaigns in the history of advertising. In the early 1990s the Swedish clothes company Hennes ran a campaign featuring a woman in underwear with the slogan "What the au pair will be wearing this winter". After a deluge of complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority it ran a campaign the next year that actually boasted about the offence caused. Same sort of picture, but this time the words were "Last time we ran an ad for Swedish lingerie 78 women complained. No men." Fodder for the emergent new lads, perhaps, but more complaints to the ASA saw the poster withdrawn.

Our first move was to show a cross-section of women different images and sentences, and establish which best represented how they felt about the product, what we call "sensual positioning". Sensuality is the key word, as opposed to sexuality, which used to be the important thing. A woman can take pleasure in her own sensuality, as opposed to worrying how men perceive her. After the positioning we went back to the women with our poster and got very positive responses from them.

But the image of a half-naked woman in a haystack is a stock archetype of the Western sexual imagination, not to



Claudia Schiffer in the banned commercial; above left, an ad from a more innocent age

want from their bra? Do women feel undermined or, as it were, uplifted?

According to Mandy Courtney, account director at Abbott Mead Vickers, which made the woman-in-a-bed-of-straw campaign for Gossard, it is all about "sensuality positioning".

"Our first move was to show a cross-section of women different images and sentences, and establish which best represented how they felt about the product, what we call 'sensual positioning'. Sensuality is the key word, as opposed to sexuality, which used to be the important thing. A woman can take pleasure in her own sensuality, as opposed to worrying how men perceive her. After the positioning we went back to the women with our poster and got very positive responses from them."

But the image of a half-naked woman in a haystack is a stock archetype of the Western sexual imagination, not to

mention a favourite porn magazine. This did not face them, says Ms Courtney.

"One woman told us 'It's a good statement for women', and another said 'She's liberated, clever and confident. This gives women a boost.' Sales have soared, and since

women are the ones who buy the underwear they are obviously happy with it."

What about accusations that it panders to the baser instincts of men and the most superficial representations of women? "I don't think this picture appeals to men at all," says Ms Courtney. "I don't claim that men will ignore it, but it wouldn't be normal. But in the 1990s that is no reason not to advertise lingerie on a poster."

And the slogan does not reinforce gender stereotypes? "No, it celebrates the gender game. We have come to this later than other Europeans, but the culture is moving quicker than people think."

Not so fast, however, that Marks & Spencer needs to pander to it. It already has 34 per cent of the underwear market, selling a million pairs of knickers and 500,000 bras every week in Britain. It does not advertise at all.

"We don't need gimmicks to sell our underwear," says Laura Middleton of M&S. "These others have to sell an aspirational image about sheer sex appeal. The ads are very clever, but they don't turn me on. They don't even make me smile. I just think how very sad that someone has to stoop so low. They are obviously created by a man, no woman would ever do that."

And, indeed, the Gossard ad was written by men. Men who had seen the poster of Jane Russell in *The Outlaw* — which caused an outcry in its own time. And Claudia Schiffer is distinguishable from the other supermodels not as the one most admired by women, but the one most desired by men. It is a long way, sensually, from the Israeli firm that used a picture of Margaret Thatcher to advertise its knickers, with the slogan "In the end we remember those who had balls."

'Sales have soared so women must be happy'

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The July issue of the *IBS Bulletin* contains a four-page questionnaire on diet and IBS. Dairy products, wheat, gluten, alcohol, high and low fibre diets, caffeine, and allergy tests, are areas examined. Answers will provide the IBS Research Team at Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust with more valuable clues on the causes of Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

In addition to the questionnaire, the July *IBS Bulletin* will feature articles on the economic costs of IBS; IBS in the gynaecological clinic; IBS and the irritable bladder; clinical trials of treatments; non-gastro-intestinal features of IBS; and case histories.

An annual subscription for four issues of the *IBS Bulletin* is £10. Individual back numbers (issues 1-11) are available at £3 each. All proceeds go to IBS research. The first 11 issues raised more than £85,000 towards IBS research at the Central Middlesex Hospital.

If you would like to support this research and be kept up to date with information about IBS and its management, please send your cheque for £10 (one year's subscription), payable to IBS Bulletin, to:

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For further information about the IBS Research Programme, and for a list of contents of back numbers of *IBS Bulletins*, please send a s.a.e. to the same address.

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Playing for the ghosts of Croatia

Davor Suker, star of Euro 96, cannot forget his dead countrymen. Interview by Jason Cowley

Through his displays of virtuoso brilliance, his uninhibited style and his confidence in attempting and frequently achieving the outrageous, the Croatian footballer Davor Suker has become the most luminous star in his country's many-talented team.

His match-winning performance against Denmark on Sunday night was notable not only for his two goals but also for the intensity and passion of his patriotic commitment. When he and his colleagues, many of whom have lost relatives and friends in the war with Serbia, assembled before the game to sing their national anthem, hands clasping their red and white checkboard shirts as if in prayer, one sensed that here was a group of young men united by more than the usual desire to win an important football match.

Rather, they were united by a deep compulsion and the realisation that the strivings of the Croatian football team, which emerged out of the ashes of the old Yugoslavia, mirror those of the nation itself. For after years of destruction and brutality and the sacrifices demanded by the government in order to develop a powerful indigenous army, the success of the "Croatian commandos" has captured the mood of national renewal and expectation.

Although Suker has lived for the past four years in Spain, where he has just signed for Real Madrid on a four-year contract worth a reported £5 million, his life has

been overshadowed by war, or by the memory of war. He was born to poor parents in Osijek on January 1, 1968, and whenever he returns to his home town, the scene of sustained Serb hostilities, he views the familiar places and haunts of his childhood through a mist of tears. The school where he learnt to play football, the Roman Catholic church where he worshipped and the social club where he mingled at weekends are now little more than rubble. His

'I tried to get my parents to leave, but they refused'

parents' modest house still carries the scars caused by bullets and exploding grenades. "When I go back, I can't believe what I see," he says. "Ancient buildings and churches have been destroyed, the culture of a whole area ruined." Suker's English is slow, hesitant and fractured. Much of what he says is filtered through his interpreter Miladen Petrešić.

The civil war began in Croatia in July 1991, shortly after the country had declared its independence from the Yugoslav federation. Watching events unfold grimly on

Spanish television, Suker longed to be reunited with his father, the former Yugoslav shuttler Tomislav Suker, his mother Milka and sister Nivenka. "My parents spent much of the war living underground in cellars that were used as air-raid shelters. Their life was appalling. The conditions were terrible underground; it was so damp and my father suffered with his health. He contracted pleurisy and had to have some ribs removed to help him to breathe."

On several occasions Suker attempted in vain to persuade his parents to come to live with him in Seville, where he was then playing. "I tried to get them to come to live with me, but they refused to leave. I think they loved their country too much and, anyway, they also wanted to show solidarity to the other families in the town who could not leave."

Asked if he felt any guilt about enjoying a millionaire's lifestyle while his friends and family suffered, Suker shakes his head sombrely. "It was very difficult. Sometimes when I called my family on the telephone I could hear the bombs and grenades exploding in the background."

Beset by worry, he became restless, confused and anti-social; his nights were often sleepless. "I saw the atrocities on television. I saw what was happening to Osijek, Vukovar and Dubrovnik. But, at the same time, I felt that I was an ambassador for my country. In Spain I was known as the Croat Suker, and whenever I was interviewed I used the opportunity to explain what was happening and what the war was about. This was how I served my country. I know other people gave their lives, but I was doing my best."

Suker says that if he closes his eyes he can see the faces and hear the voices of his friends, some of whom were teammates at his former clubs Osijek and Dinamo Zagreb, who died defending Vukovar and Dubrovnik against the invading Serb forces. "I will never forget my friends who died fighting for our independence. The pain of remembering is very great." His voice drops to a whisper and he sighs. Then, as a group of his teammates pass clutching their mobile phones and, more surprisingly, their packs of cigarettes, he lifts his head: "But we won. We are free now."

To hear a footballer speak in this way, particularly after a lifetime of listening to the banal platitudes of so many players, is to have one's preconceptions shattered. And yet in many ways, Suker, with his Versace clothes, fondness for fast cars and eye for the main chance (he negotiates all sponsorship and advertising deals for the entire Croatian squad), is the epitome of the modern, money-driven footballer. He appears relaxed and at ease in the surroundings of the team's hotel, set on the edge of Rutland Water in acres of rolling English countryside. For one whose boyhood was

poor and difficult, luxury no longer phases him. There is also something, superbly worldly about him. He is used to attention. The hotel is swarming with sportswriters, with reporters from the Italian, French, Portuguese and Spanish dailies and others from the glossy soccer week-



Davor Suker: "no greater genius in football"

lies Shoot and Match. But Suker greets all requests for interviews with patience and the same benign smile. Despite the claim by his coach Miroslav Blažević that "there is no greater genius in football than Suker" it has been said by some in Spain that success and fame have changed him. They believe

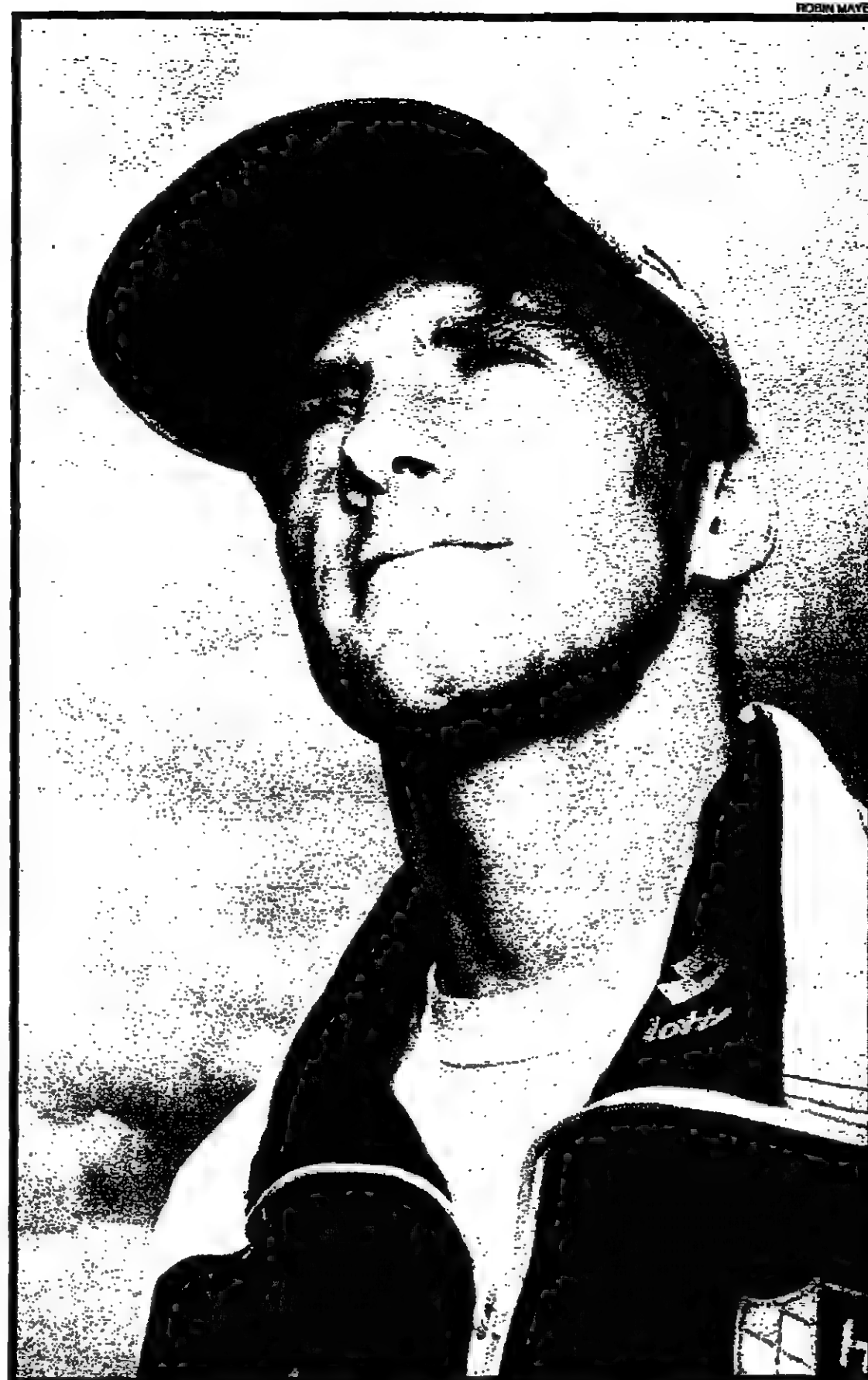
that his extravagant talent made him impatient with and intolerant of his former teammates at Seville.

Many Andalusians were also dismayed when he described the club for which he had played for four years as "mediocre", adding that it could never help him to fulfil his ambitions. "Look," he says, when I mention this, "football is my game. I scored 70 league goals for Seville, and, before that, 167 goals for my clubs in Croatia. I have also scored 20 goals in 21 games for the Croatian national team. I need to play for a big club, a club that will give me a stage on which to perform to realise my ambitions."

There are few bigger clubs than Real Madrid. But first there is the small matter of Croatia's appearance in the quarter-finals of Euro 96. While there may be stronger teams in the tournament, few play with greater flair and audacity than the Croats and none with more pride or nationalistic fervour.

"I know every team has pride in their country, but none can surely feel what we feel when we play and wear the insignia of Croatia," Suker says. "All of us have been affected by what happened in the war; people of my own age died; many mothers are left without sons. These are the pictures we carry in our heads when we play for Croatia."

Their next opponents would do well to remember that.



Despite living and playing in Spain Davor Suker's life has been overshadowed by war in his homeland

Saviour of the urchins

BY HER late twenties, Sarah de Carvalho was well on the way to becoming one of the country's top television producers, working on successful programmes such as *Top of the Pops* and *The Late Late Breakfast Show*. Born into a middle-class family in Surrey, Sarah had begun work at 19 as a junior secretary for Warner Brothers; she swiftly moved into film promotion, and then made a highly successful transition to television.

But by 1987 she was feeling restless. "I didn't feel satisfied. I kept asking myself: what am I looking for?"

In November of that year Sarah's cousin Fiona dragged her along to a service at Holy Trinity Brompton.

The effect was instantaneous, she

says. "It was as though my whole body had become flooded with a warm heat. I knew that I had been touched by God." She signed up for the church's 13-week Alpha course — an introduction to basic Christian beliefs — and began helping out at a London shelter for the homeless. She then asked God what purpose He had for her. "Suddenly I heard in my thoughts, 'I want you to go to Brazil'."

Sarah moved to Borel, one of the most dangerous shanty towns in Rio de Janeiro, on a mission to save street children from a childhood destroyed by drugs and alcohol and extermination squads, where 35 per cent die on the streets before they reach the age of 18. Five years on, with the help of her Brazilian husband, she has set up the Happy Child Mission. Children are taken to a farm 15 miles outside Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third largest city, where Sarah and her husband live with their two children and up to 30 urchins. Here, she says, "they learn to become children again". The mission aims to reunite them with their parents, or find foster homes.

Sarah says: "Sometimes I despair, but then I see a life transformed, and I know why I am doing it."

PIERS MCGRANDLE

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Our money, our votes and our Ken

The Chancellor can still win the election, writes John Redwood

Money makes the world go round. It can also help the Government to win the next election. Ken Clarke holds in his hands the keys to a renewed popular mandate. The issue of whether to keep the pound or not is central to whether we continue as a Europe of Nations or move on to a single country governed from Brussels and Frankfurt.

Money in another sense is going to be at the heart of the next election, and could prove to be the big issue of the next Parliament. Should we keep the pound? Or should it be abolished, to be replaced by the euro?

Travelling the country and talking to many different groups, I find no general enthusiasm for the idea of scrapping our currency. On the contrary, I find a fear of what it might do to us, a growing recognition that it could be bad for our pockets and bad for our democracy.

We have had a dry run of what living with a single European currency would be like when we were in the exchange-rate mechanism. As if that weren't enough of a warning, if we join the euro we shall have to surrender our foreign exchange reserves to the Frankfurt central bank. We would no longer as a nation be able to treat our money as our own. The gold would be taken out of our vaults and sent abroad.

The impact this would have on our democracy worries me as much. Under the rules of the game, you and I are not allowed to influence the Frankfurt bank. Nor is the British Government. Suppose we had joined and that the new currency was too high against the dollar for our companies to manage. It would be no good writing to our MPs: be powerless. It would be no good writing to the British Government: it could only say that these matters were settled in Frankfurt. And there would be no point in writing to the central bank, as under the treaty it is obliged to ignore such letters.

Tony Blair says that he likes the idea of a single currency in principle. He never admits what a large transfer of power the single currency would represent. He never tells us that if as a result British unemployment rose, if businesses went bust, if homes were repossessed — as happened in the early 1990s under the exchange-rate mechanism — no government could do anything about it. Nor does he tell us why next time would be any different from last, when his party ardently supported the ERM experiment.

Over the past few years Conservatives have united behind the opinion that we will not put forward a single currency in the lifetime of this Parliament. Soon we need to bring this policy up to date. I would like the Government to rule out joining a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament. Then we could turn our fire on Tony Blair, and see how many of his followers really do want Britain to surrender the pound and commit itself to the whims of foreign central bankers.

The Prime Minister has said that he thinks a single currency during the next Parliament extremely unlikely. He has said that the requirements of the Maastricht treaty are the minimum that should be met before any country joins. Since most countries at the moment are miles away from hitting the demanding targets for debt levels, deficits, inflation, currency and interest rates, it would not be ruling out very much to rule out joining in the next few years.

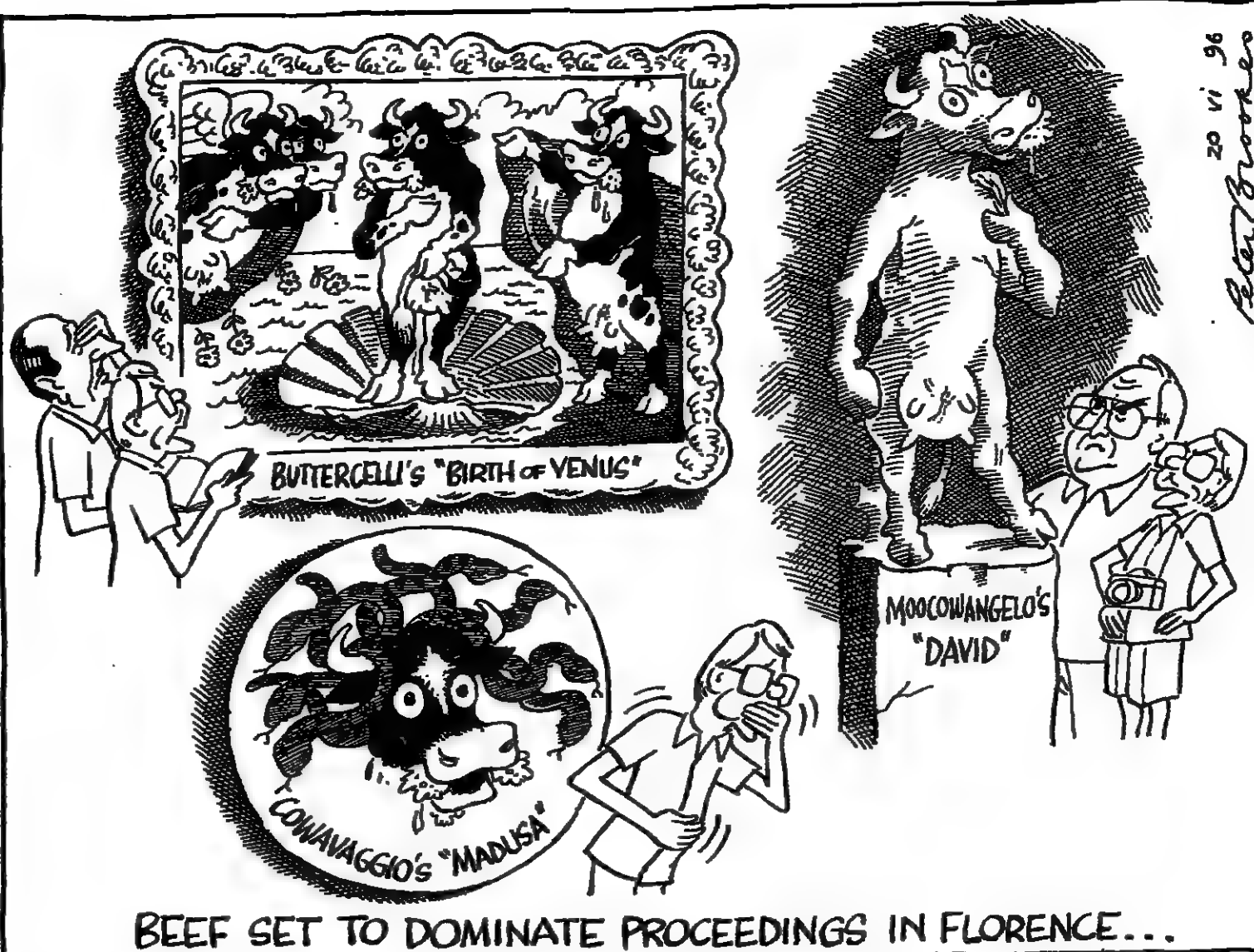
But it would achieve a great deal at home. It would give British voters a chance to choose between a party that is committed to merging us into a European government, and a party that believes in a Europe of nations. It would give Conservative candidates a new enthusiasm, something to sell: "Vote Conservative, and keep your country".

The debate so far has been about the less important issues. Can we print the Queen's head on the euro note? How many billions will it cost to change all the tills and cash machines? Could Britain join without spending two years in the exchange-rate mechanism? The fundamental issue is, does Britain wish to keep hold of the main levers of economic management or not?

The single currency is a massive step on the way to a single government. It is no mere technical matter. It is not some kind of magic, cornucopia-free traveller's cheque. It means switching allegiance from Britain to Europe, it means new management of our affairs from afar, it means an end to a separate British economic policy. We would have to pay higher taxes to send grants and subsidies to Brandenburg, Prussia and other poorer parts of the currency union, just as we do within Britain at the moment. It would make general elections less important than the decisions of a few central bank governors meeting in Germany to settle our future.

In 1992, the Conservatives won the election against the odds, because people recoiled from Labour's tax plans. The Tory Government persuaded the electorate that it would leave people more of their own money to spend. It is time to fulfil that promise and show that Conservatives are back on tax-cutting form.

Last year's Budget showed the way, reducing spending plans by £3,200 million and cutting income tax by a penny in the pound. This year's Budget needs to be bigger and bolder, along the same lines. The good news is that there is a lot of padding in the figures. At the moment the Government says it is going to spend £11,200 million more — a huge increase. I think the public sector could manage with just £5,200 million more. That would allow enough for teachers, policemen, nurses and soldiers: we should look after our essential services. It would also mean that the Chancellor had £6,000 million to play with: quite a handy amount to use to cut taxes. To do that and give a pledge to keep the pound could be the keys to the next election.



See, the conquering hero

General Lebed's appeal to Russians may herald a revival of heroic politics

The learned Scottish patriot Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun observed that "if a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation".

Last Tuesday, the morning service on Radio 4 opened with the hymn *Glorious things of Thee are spoken*, to the tune which in English hymn-books is usually called *Austria*. I remember that we sang the same hymn in Charterhouse chapel during the war with all the glees of schoolboy irony: the tune is the same as that of *Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles*, not then a popular sentiment in Britain. It is one of the most powerful songs of political history.

It has been a political song since 1797, when Franz Joseph Haydn took a Croatian folk-tune he had known since his youth, and used it for the *Emperor Anthem*. The Holy Roman Empire, which traced its ancestry, with some large gaps, back to Augustus, was in its very last years; it finally disappeared in 1806. The Imperial High Chancellor — a title now as remote as that of Ozymandias, King of Kings — Count von Saurau, was trying to counter the influence of the French Revolution.

"Regretting that we had not, like the British, a national song calculated to display to all the world the loyal devotion of our people to the king and upright ruler of our Fatherland... I caused the meritorious poet Haschka to write the words, and applied to our immortal countryman Haydn to set them to music, for I considered him alone capable of writing anything approaching in merit the English *God save the King*."

In 1809, Vienna itself was under the occupation of the nouveau Emperor Napoleon, who had destroyed the Holy Roman Empire and apparently destroyed the old Austria. Haydn was on his deathbed; he had himself carried to the piano and played the *Emperor Anthem*, the last music he ever played. A few days later he died.

In 1848, a later year of revolutionary enthusiasm, August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben, a German professor, wrote a poem about his ideal of German unity, *Deutschland über Alles*, which means "Germany before everything" and not, as has sometimes been supposed, "Germany over everybody". This poem was set to Haydn's music; Hoffmann himself was later deprived of his chair because his poetry was thought to be too liberal. In the late 1930s this

song was particularly important to the *Anschluss* which amalgamated Austria with Hitler's Germany; this *Deutschlandlied* was central to the musical propaganda of the Nazi regime, so much so that it was banned after 1945, and restored only in 1952, even then without the stanza containing the words "über Alles".

Music helped to shape Hitler's megalomania. Shortly before the First World War, he went to an Austrian performance of Wagner's opera *Rienzi*: he was the plebeian leader of the Roman populace who in the middle of the 14th century sought to release them from the rule of the patricians and make Rome again the leading city of the world. Although *Rienzi*'s dream ended in disaster, in the opera as in real life, Adolf Hitler emerged from the performance with a conviction that it was his own destiny to give similar leadership to the German people. *Rienzi* was the work of Wagner which most influenced him. He persuaded the Wagner family to give him the manuscript, which apparently perished with him in his Berlin bunker in 1945.

Since 1945, Europe has been relatively free of the politics of heroic leadership, because the hero-leaders, particularly Hitler himself, led the European people into such criminal disasters. I remember Sir Oswald Mosley, who had hoped to be the English hero-leader in the 1930s, saying in the early 1970s: "How could I still call myself a Fascist, when my leader went barking mad and murdered millions of people?" For 50 years, Europe has been largely free of what Thomas Carlyle approvingly called *Heroes and Hero Worship*.

Yet the history of mankind shows that heroes have a grip on human psychology; one cannot suppose that 50 years of revolution at the evil done by a particular generation of revolutionary heroes has permanently changed human psychology. As Carlyle observed, "worship is transcendental wisdom": the Greeks did wonder at Alexander the Great, the Romans at Julius Caesar, the French at

Napoleon, the Germans at Hitler and the Chinese at Chairman Mao. There is an aesthetic of power which links the hero-leader to his followers.

Fifty years is a long time for the collective subconscious to keep as quiet as the European admiration for heroes has since 1945. "Fascism" is the word we use to describe a historically obsolete form of this hero-worship of power. The continued devaluation of "Fascism" as a name does not mean that the thing itself has disappeared, any more than the idea of European unity disappeared with the Holy Roman Empire in 1806.

Political power, in both authoritarian and democratic regimes, derives more from the subconscious than the conscious popular mind. That is one reason why intellectuals often fail in political life: they aim at the wrong target in the human psyche, and use argument when they should appeal to emotion.

One of the reasons why Hitler was so successful as a politician, rising from nothing to be the most powerful European leader since Napoleon, was his understanding of the German collective subconscious: he used symbolism, rhetoric, art, architecture, mass marches and music to obtain control of minds. Wagner was his real teacher.

Europe is now seeing the first crop of hero-leaders since 1945: they are springing up like mushrooms in a green field. They have certain things in common. They are strong nationalists, and express the tribal rivalries of their people. They use the rhetoric of certainty. They make politics more colourful, more exciting. Their strong instinctual appeal contrasts with the drabness of the engineers of political consent who have risen to the top in most democracies. Because Helmut Kohl is a strong paternal figure, the German hero-politician has not yet appeared in opposition to him, but he will, sooner or later. In the meantime, there is Umberto Bossi in North Italy, Jean-Marie Le Pen in France and

Binyamin Netanyahu a little further off in Israel, to tell us what the new hero-leaders of the Right may be like.

The latest hero-figure to emerge is General Aleksandr Lebed. It seems he has already knocked out one pretender to the hero-role, that grotesque clown Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. General Lebed offers Russia salvation through the hero's will. Russia has been through a period of economic disaster and political humiliation, not unlike that of Germany before 1933, and may be ready for a hero.

Because we have the experience of modern genocidal heroes — Hitler, Stalin and Mao — we tend to see all of these figures as evil. That was not the pre-20th-century view. Carlyle himself wrote: "No great man lives in vain. The history of the world is but the biography of great men." In the wars of our own century, Lloyd George, Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and de Gaulle used the romantic mystique of greatness to defend the democratic nations. When writing of the great conquerors — Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, Napoleon — 19th-century historians balanced what they created against what they destroyed, and regarded some of their destruction as necessary, or even as creative in itself. The idea that all great men are evil belongs largely to the 20th century.

There can be no doubt that General Lebed sees himself as the strong man of Russia's future. His press secretary has said of his relationship with Boris Yeltsin that "they are alike in character, they have a strength, a confidence that attracts people like a magnet". Lebed is younger, physically stronger and personally more popular than Yeltsin. He portrays himself as a man who can crush crime and as a natural winner: he has been a tough fighting soldier. Even Yeltsin apparently sees him as the Russian leader for the year 2000, a millennial hero.

The appeal of General Lebed reflects the revival of heroic politics, and his success could reinforce it. Benito Mussolini paved the way for the dictators of the 1930s. If Italy could have the excitement of a Duce, why should not Spain or Germany?

The idea of a strong man in power is as catching as a popular tune. "Some talk of Alexander, and some of Hercules, of Hector and Lysander, and such great men as these." Nations can be waded away by the crescendo of hero-worship — we may now be hearing that song again. It is the song the Syrians sang.

Is Gazza another Drake?

Spain respects our pirates, says Tunku Varadarajan

Englishmen and Spaniards may have often scrapped, bickered, brawled and warred, but they have always had for each other a sneaking, piquant regard — as apparent on the frothing high seas of our history books as it will be on the playing fields of Wembley on Saturday.

Throughout history, each has been the twisted mirror-image of the other. And that is perhaps still true today. If John Bull is a loyal monarchist, so is proud Juan Toro. Both partake of the sharpest sense of nationhood in all Europe — sharper by far than that of the Frenchman, the German, the Italian and the Belgian — born of a shared seafaring past, restless for empire, a glorious language and a well-honed arrogance. For each, the other has been the Oldest Enemy, too close in spirit to trust; and Saturday's tussle for supremacy on the football field will serve as the nearest metaphor for all that has ever passed between "the Iberia from which all evil comes" and "perfidious Albion".

Yet as England awaits the kick-off, the nation should acknowledge an important historical debt to Spain. It has not always been fashionable to endorse this, but it was Spain that cemented the English nation towards the end of the 16th century. Phillip II and the "Invincible" Armada aroused England, forcing her to define herself in adversity — forcing her, in effect, to be England. The first proper English hero, Sir Francis Drake (whose audacious assault on the large, dozing Spanish fleet at Cadiz in 1587 was the model for Pearl Harbor, the Israeli raid on Egypt's airfields and every other pre-emptive military strike) is still an accurate figure in Spain. *El pirata Drake*, they call him in Spain: *los piratas*, many Spaniards still call the English. These should be seen as compliments, of course, for they attest to the two virtues, daring and practicality, which Englishmen have always had and Spaniards almost never.

John Donne recognised this, in 1624, in a letter to Sir Robert Carr: "They have hotter dales in Spain than we have here, but our dales are longer; and yet we are hotter in our business here, and they are longer about it here." Daring and practicality marked Drake's clever fireships, which destroyed the stout, unwieldy ships of the Armada, darting in, releasing their broadsides and escaping before the heavier Spanish cannon could be brought to bear. The Duke of Medina Sidonia, "the pirates' adversary, was an honourable man in the Iberian mould. Strict obedience to orders took precedence over flair and improvisation. Drake was but one in a long line of English eccentrics, a species which the Spanish Kingdom did not then have and probably never will.

That country, of course, exceeds England in other virtues: dourness, and the romantic attachment to duty that goes with dourness. The footsloggers from Castille and Extremadura are the models for Javier Clemente's football team, worthy opponents for the men of Venables. Tough, muscular, indefatigable, even cruel, theirs is the tenacity of loyal subjects playing for an old, distinguished flag.

Tenacity, a *la española*, however, is the first cousin of cussedness and inflexibility, traits which Spain displays in abundance in the matters where the two nations still cross swords: fish and Gibraltar. The primordial fight over the New World, the 16th-century struggle for commercial, political and religious supremacy, is now reduced to a skirmish over cod and hake, and a tiny crumb of "Spanish" land on which the Union Jack flies. In both cases, Spain is wrong, plundering the seas off the English coast and punishing a handful of people who have the temerity to refuse (as is their right) to be Spanish. But there are those in England — Cornish fishermen, for example, and friends of Hong Kong — who admire Madrid's defence of its own interests, and who wish our own politicians were as unyielding as Spain's.

What has all this to do with soccer? Everything and nothing. Nothing because football is "just a game", and everything, because it is the underlying history of two nations which brings to life a sporting contest. This is not a perverse intrusion of politics onto the pitch, but exactly as it should be. The Ashes are provocative because Australians still use the cricket field to assert their independence. The Calcutta Cup has its fine taste of haggis because Scotland tries to do the same, usually in vain. Pakistan's cricketers pull out all the stops against India because they play for a new nation against the older metropolises from whom they parted in blood 50 years ago.

Spain and England have no special history of rivalry on the football field, but their centuries of rich competition away from it — Catholicism versus Protestantism, Cervantes versus Shakespeare, romanticism versus common sense, bullfighting versus kindness to animals, austerity versus eccentricity — will give an awkward grace to Wembley on Saturday. Will Javier Clemente be the Duke of Medina Sidonia? Will Paul Gascoigne be Sir Francis Drake, *el pirata*? England expects, and Spain does too.

Substitution

THE PRINCESS of Wales had to play second fiddle to Euro 96 at a society dinner last night in Rome. Having paid \$1,000 a head to attend an event at a Renaissance palazzo where the Princess was guest of honour, football-crazy Italians insisted that television screens should be installed so that they could watch their match against Germany as they were eating.

The charity dinner and fashion



Mariuccia Mandelli

show was thrown by the Princess's designer friend Mariuccia Mandelli, owner of the Krizia fashion chain and chateleine of the "K" Club resort in Barbuda, where the

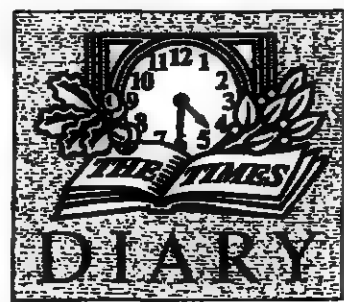
Princess recently enjoyed a holiday. Unusually, she attended with her sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale — doubtless a frenetic football follower.

"The trouble was that nobody would turn out unless they could watch the football," said one glamorous Italian socialite. "It didn't matter that Princess Diana and Princess Caroline of Monaco were billed to attend. They would not come unless they could watch the football."

The Princess's office would not be drawn yesterday on whether she cares about football, although she is said to have lost interest since Gary Lineker hung up his boots. "It is a private visit to Rome," said her office. "We are not commenting."

No prizes

PARENT POWER has forced Emma Nicholson, MP for Torridge and West Devon, to withdraw as the guest of honour at a local prize day next week. Mark Turner, the headmaster at Kelly College, near Tavistock in Devon, asked the MP last August to hand



out the prizes at founder's day, but parents have complained, and gone to the length of having a leaflet printed.

"They say she's a bad model for students because she is a political traitor," says Mark Turner, the headmaster, referring to Nicholson's defection from the Tories to the Lib Dems. "Emma decided it would be less embarrassing to withdraw, but my father, the Bishop of Stockport, might stand in."

Emma Nicholson is unabashed. She says she was sorry to have had to stand down — but "these parents are being boorish."

Greenwich may be hosting the millennium celebrations but its logo is likely to be schmalzy. I understand that two furry creatures named Millie and Lennie — a female badger and her son — are to be the centrepiece of the Green-

wich millennium logo. Expect sackloads of tourist badgerabilia.

Summit up

FURY in the Tuscan hills. Italian devotees of Radio Chiunti — a one-priest local station — are appalled that the BBC has annexed their station for the purposes of the EU summit in Florence.

The BBC World Service insists that Florentine ex-pats will be the wisest for the takeover, and



"Think before you score. Do you want John Major to benefit from the feelgood factor?"

that Tuscans will not miss their delightful Italian language station for long. "It is usually a rather sleepy operation, and the local priest is often hauled in to comment," says a local. "But it covers politics, culture and current affairs better than the BBC."

John Major evidently has no faith in England reaching the Euro 96 semi-finals. He has arranged to give a crucial speech on the constitution to the right-wing think-tank the Centre for Policy Studies, where Tessa Keewick is director, at exactly the time the game kicks off.

Fair Queen

THE SORRY fall of Lord Brocket is good news for the art market. His home, Brocket Hall, has already been put up for sale, and now his paintings are to be auctioned.

The first major work to go is this late-16th-century portrait of Elizabeth I. The picture, characterised by Sir Roy Strong as "The Brocket Portrait" is of the English school and expected to go for £60,000-£80,000. An X-ray shows that the artist initially intended to depict the virgin Queen in old age, but was then persuaded to change his conception of the face to show a



The "Brocket" portrait

youthfulness belying her 60 years. The artist, unlike the camera, could always lie.

Peter O'Toole has pulled out of an Edinburgh publicity tour for the second part of his autobiography, *Loitering With Intent* — because he is "deeply ashamed" of some of his countrymen in the light of the IRA's bombing of Manchester. "He is very upset by the latest actions of the IRA, and as a result has decided to postpone his tour," says the publisher.

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BLAIR AT WORK

Could the Labour leader defy his continental partners?

Tony Blair, in Bonn this week, said that he wanted to "rethink the whole of our philosophy in relation to the labour market". Job security cannot, he argued, come from over-regulation. Instead, "the best long-term protection a modern employee can have is to be equipped to succeed." According to Mr Blair, skills and employability are better protectors than employment law, particularly since "the impact of non-wage costs on total employment costs cannot be ignored." These are notable words from the leader of a left-of-centre party — even New Labour.

Whether Mr Blair can be believed may be clearer tomorrow, when the party is due to launch its policy document on rights at work. Its title alone suggests a Blair touch: *Building prosperity — flexibility, efficiency and fairness at work*. The indications are that it will promise not to reverse any Conservative trade union legislation. Secondary picketing, for instance, will continue to be outlawed and ballots will have to be held before all strikes.

More provocatively to Labour's paymasters, Mr Blair is likely to drop his predecessor's pledge that all workers will have employment rights from the first day at their job. This commitment will probably be replaced by the statement that two years (the current threshold before rights can be claimed) is too long, particularly in the case of unfair dismissal. But no specific time period will be offered in its place. John Smith made his promise to the trade unions at the TUC conference in September 1993, the meeting immediately before the Labour conference at which the one-member-one-vote reforms needed union support. At that time, the modernisers (prime among whom was Mr Blair) were unhappy with this Faustian pact. Now its terms will be softened.

Labour, however, may make other promises that could bring unions back into workplaces that have managed perfectly well without them. Under the party's proposals, if a majority of the relevant workforce votes in a ballot for union recognition, then the employer must grant it for the purposes of bargaining on pay, hours, holidays and training. What "relevant" means is not yet clear. Would it be a majority of one craft within a company, or one department, or the whole workforce? These questions are important.

Also critical is what employment legislation would be imported across the Channel once Labour signed up to the social chapter. At the moment, the only two directives concern parental leave and works councils. The first would give three months' unpaid leave to parents with the right to return to their jobs. Under the second, large companies would have to set up works councils; many with overseas subsidiaries have done so already. The existence of Britain's opt-out, however, has made the other countries wary of passing stronger laws.

If a Labour government were to join, pressure might build for tougher regulation. Mr Blair seems to believe that he can prevent this from happening. It is true that some areas — such as social security, dismissal rights and trade union rights — do require unanimity. But legislation in other, loosely-defined areas such as "working conditions" can be passed by qualified majority vote. Would Mr Blair, as Prime Minister of a Labour government, be prepared to stand out against a European drive that claimed to improve workers' rights? To do so would require a will of steel. To believe that Mr Blair would do so requires a very special credulity.

BURMA BETRAYED

Foreign investment sustains an inexcusably brutal regime

Just under a year ago, the Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was released from six years of solitary house arrest in Rangoon — a confinement which Burma's generals never attempted to justify by bringing charges. Her release was said to be unconditional. As we argued then, that ought to have meant that this extraordinary woman, who has never ceased to appeal for national reconciliation through respect for human rights, should be free to heal the wounds inflicted by Burma's long years of military dictatorship. In particular, it should have freed her to rebuild the National League for Democracy, a peaceful popular movement that obtained four-fifths of the votes in the 1990 parliamentary elections only to see the verdict swept aside by the SLORC, the junta's State Law and Order Restoration Council.

When they released her, the SLORC calculated that six years of crushing oppression, during which hundreds of Daw Suu Kyi's supporters had been jailed and thousands of Burmese forced to sign denunciations of her and the NLD on pain of losing their jobs and homes, had sufficed to break the spirit of democracy. They therefore reasoned that the gesture would increase the flow of foreign aid and investment; and that it was safely empty, because Daw Suu Kyi was politically a broken reed, whose release would pose no further domestic challenge.

They were right on the first count: investment has poured into Burma. But they were wrong on the second. Daw Suu Kyi has not been rattle, rattled no sabres; on the contrary, she has avoided all provocation, never ceasing to remind the crowds of ordinary Burmese who risk arrest by flocking to her door each weekend that they should be patient, moderate and disciplined in their quest for democracy. But she has not wavered in her demand for a new, genuinely democratic constitution for Burma, and the example of her unbroken spirit is reviving

her people's courage. By these peaceful means she has wrongfooted the SLORC, which is now abandoning its earlier pretence that she and the NLD can be ignored.

Last month, the regime attempted to intimidate her into abandoning a three-day NLD party conference by detaining 258 NLD members, allegedly "to avoid anarchy". At least 35, according to Amnesty, are still in jail. The conference went ahead and 10,000 people rallied, cheering, to her house in defiance of a ban on gatherings of more than 50. The SLORC's response was to pass a law aimed directly at her and the NLD. It imposes a 20-year jail sentence on persons who advocate an "unauthorised" state constitution or, in the catch-all phrase beloved of dictators, commit "acts disturbing public order". Organisations guilty of either offence will be banned.

Whatever the junta may claim, Daw Suu Kyi would never have been released in the first place but for international pressure; that pressure should again be applied. Governments, investors and individual tourists should answer her appeal for a boycott of Burma, made on the ground that foreign currency shores up the regime without benefit to her countrymen. Her argument is reinforced by a UN report in April confirming Burma's widespread use of forced labour in tourism and infrastructure. Passengers on the Orient Express liner, which Sea Containers has spent \$10 million refitting for cruises down the Irrawaddy, may plead ignorance of slave labour: they will not see it. The British Government cannot pretend. It admits that the situation "has recently deteriorated"; yet at the same time the DTI is helping to promote Burma as a new Asian tiger and is backing two high-profile trade missions to Burma this year. Public money would be better spent informing the private sector, including tour operators, that their investment sustains in power an inexcusably brutal regime.

FEEL-GOOD FOOTBALL

Winning isn't everything but it makes a magical change

England's defeat of Holland was a prodigy for more than the record books. Suddenly everyone feels better. Road-ragers honk their horns in delight. Young drunks roam the streets chanting benevolently rather than threateningly. Both sides' notorious fans, belying their tribal warpaint, mingle peacefully on the streets. Even those who cannot distinguish a football from a football sense a tingle in the air. How potent is a win at football.

It is no less than 30 years since England last beat a major footballing power in a tournament: and the mysterious connection between sporting success and national morale has been known ever since. Harold Wilson claimed that England's victory over Germany in the 1966 World Cup was worth 20 points in the opinion polls. He even blamed England's defeat in 1970 for his loss of that election a week later. John Major, who knows as much as Terry Venables about failure and recommitment, was understandably prompt with his fulsome congratulations to the England squad.

The match was won with style as well as power. England outplayed the old Dutch masters of total football at their own game. In addition to the hard athleticism of the English leagues, they showed the progressive movements, the short interpassing, the running off the ball, the prestidigitated and

of the Seventies famous. On the night to remember, for once everything went right. Gazza not only flaunted his lateral thinking, but lasted for more than 90 minutes without emulating either lobster or grampus. Shearer and Sheringham ended their long runs of not scoring what they are paid for. That third goal was a passing masterpiece of selfishness. Overnight England have become second favourites and the opponents to fear.

Thus has a previously predictable and plodding Euro 96 been banana-kicked into new life. Sport has always had this curious power to project people occasionally into love or hate, despair or something approaching happiness. The earliest Western literature records the triumphs and disasters of the games, their sublimation of man's baser instincts into the symbolic mock combat known as sport.

Traditional flaming June after the bitter spring may take some responsibility for the general euphoria. So can national pride, relief and surprise. But if England's cricketers at Lord's today could show the success, the class and the delight in their work of the footballers... if the footballers could beat Spain in equally heroic style on Saturday, and so advance to the semi-finals and even the final... if we could win some of our other bigger battles with Europe: why, we should be in a whole new ballgame.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Growing pressure for Ulster peace

From Mr Raymond Crandon Gill

Sir, Membership of the United Kingdom implies mutual collaboration for the collective good. In most clubs it is quite normal for the members to vote to expel disruptive elements.

Now that the population of Northern Ireland have had the opportunity to vote for the parties who will provide democratic representation at the Irish peace talks, and in the light of John Major's and Tony Blair's growing pressure on Sinn Féin to deliver an IRA ceasefire (report, June 19), would it not be appropriate for the rest of the United Kingdom and Ireland to hold referendums to decide whether Northern Ireland should remain part of the United Kingdom?

The possibility of a referendum would help to concentrate the minds of those politicians who seem set to oppose the concept of peace.

Yours faithfully,
R. CRANDON GILL,
20 Rosemont Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
June 19.

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, What Northern Ireland needs is a genuine peace, not a sham to sustain a "peace process" that panders to and encourages the Southern Irish campaign, led by the IRA, to force it out of the United Kingdom.

For half a century before 1968, under more robust governments than the current ones, the principle of self-determination, this had existed. The mayhem since then, as governments fudged the basic issue, is a classic example of the way to Hell being paved with good intentions.

No amount of casuistry can bridge the reality of the need for a border (the target of the IRA and their allies) between two incompatible communities. Until Eire withdraws its claim to sovereignty over the Six Counties there are no grounds on which honest politicians can approach the problem of creating better relations: indeed one might hope for close collaboration between the two Irelands.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS STRETCH,
3 Laroc Close,
Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire.
June 17.

From Mr G. H. Gelberg

Sir, It does not help the cause of peace to declare that the IRA will not bomb themselves to the table. Any path that does not lead to negotiations with one's enemies will lead nowhere. The last ceasefire, which gave us all hope, stopped only when the peace process was perceived to have stalled unnecessarily.

Willingness to negotiate with all parties is not appeasement. How would John Major and the Ulster Unionists feel were the IRA to attack crowded shopping centres on the mainland without prior warning?

Yours truly,
GEOFFREY H. GELBERG,
37 Haslemere Avenue, NW4,
June 17.

From Mr C. G. Thorley

Sir, Sinn Féin/IRA is often represented as simply desiring a united Ireland. I believe it has two other aims: to become the authoritarian government of a united Ireland and to inflict as much damage as possible on Great Britain. I fear that if Ireland were united these motives would remain and there would still be no peace.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. THORLEY,
19 Penstones Court,
Stanford-in-the-Vale,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire.
June 17.

From Mr Lawrence T. Roach

Sir, Your leader, "Bloody Saturday" (June 17), correctly condemns Sinn Féin/IRA and those who have sought to reach a political accommodation with militant Irish republicanism. You are right to say that we must finally begin to judge the supporters of terrorism by their acts, not their words.

In doing so we shall merely be adopting the policy which Sinn Féin/IRA has always followed in its dealings with successive British and Irish governments. The men of violence have ever based their tactics upon the acts of compromise and concession which have invariably followed outbreaks of government outrage over terrorist incidents.

Your demand that Sinn Féin/IRA should accept that the "onus is on them to prove their commitment to peace by an irrevocable ceasefire and implementation of the Mitchell conditions for surrendering weapons" will surely be read as yet another invitation to the negotiating table. Your proposal offers infinite opportunities for yet more posturing, more delay, more threats of violence if another round of concessions is not made.

The time has surely come for the British and Irish governments to lead by the example you suggest. Sinn Féin and the IRA must be excluded from the process which they so contemptuously disdain.

Yours faithfully,
L. T. ROACH,
43 Ripon Way,
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.
June 17.

Divorce Bill's support for marriage

From the Bishop of Oxford

Sir, It has been clear throughout the debate on the Family Law Bill (report, June 18) that marriage and family life remain central to the wellbeing of our nation. And whilst some Members of Parliament campaigned vigorously to defeat the Bill, most did so not because they opposed the institution of marriage, but because they wanted to strengthen and support it.

At the heart of this new legislation is the concept that everything should be done to ensure that saveable marriages are saved. In this and other ways it is a much better piece of legislation than our current, discredited divorce law. One of its greatest strengths is its commitment to the funding of organisations which support marriage through research, counselling and marriage preparation. But this great benefit can only be properly realised if future governments, whatever their persuasion, are faithful to this crucial part of the Bill.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OXON,
Diocesan Church House,
North Hinksey, Oxford.

From the Executive Director, British Humanist Association

Sir, With such a high divorce rate in Britain, is it not time for the principle of "Till death us do part" to be removed from the standard Christian marriage vows?

Clergy would thus avoid some of the current double standards of remarrying divorced people in church. It would also reduce pressure for the reinstatement of the provision, rejected by the Commons, for spouses with strong religious views to be able to claim additional hardship in trying to block divorce proceedings.

Alternatively, the trend towards humanist and other marriage ceremonies will certainly continue. In these the particular vows are chosen by each couple, after much consideration and with a strong desire to abide by them.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ASHBY,
Executive Director,
British Humanist Association,
47 Theobald's Road, WC1.
June 18.

Forces pensions

From Lord Freyberg

Sir, The Government's consideration of Sir Michael Bett's independent review of the Armed Forces (letters, May 30; June 5, 11) brings back into focus the continuing pension injustices involving servicemen's dependants, especially their widows.

As a result of concessions secured from the Government on behalf of war widows last year, many elderly widows, most of whom lost young husbands in the Second World War, have had their lives transformed.

But, at the same time, Parliament rejected calls for fairness for the youngest group of war widows and for thousands of service widows now well into retirement age. The 2,000 younger post-1973 war widows asked to be allowed, on remittance, to keep the occupational pension to which their late husbands contributed.

Service widows whose husbands were not killed but fought on through conflicts are now left with pitifully inadequate pensions because of an arbitrary time bar.

In ignoring their plight last summer, the House of Commons gave the clear inference that these issues would be fully and properly addressed during the Ministry of Defence's consideration of the Bett report.

What Bett recommends as fair and proper for the next generation of servicemen and their dependants — for example, the payment of one-half-rate widows' pensions of life — must also be due to those who have completed their service. Older widows have to

live in the same expensive world as their successors, but have to manage under the provisions of a pension scheme which reflects the social norms of 30 or 40 years ago.

I trust the Government will give due attention to this outstanding injustice when they make their definitive statement on Bett this summer.

Yours faithfully,
FREYBERG,
House of Lords.
June 12.

From Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir John Rawlins

Sir, I was saddened by the letter from Mr Bryan Easy (June 5). I have a high regard for the Civil Service and dislike odious comparisons, but the respective pensions of the Civil Service and the Armed Forces presumably take into account the risk factor.

I long ago lost count of my fellow serving officers and men who were killed in the course of their duties, both in peacetime and during hostilities, more often than not leaving widows and fatherless children.

With very few notable exceptions, MoD civil servants are generally not required to fly, dive, stand in the firing-line or take part in hazardous experiments.

Those who do should certainly receive the same pension considerations as serving personnel.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RAWLINS,
18 Chawton Close,
Harestock, Winchester, Hampshire.
June 6.

Benefit fraud

From Miss Emma Newham

Sir, You report (June 11) that the Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security, Chris Smith, is launching a campaign aimed at tackling housing benefit fraud if Labour forms a government. However, his proposed methods of verifying claims are unwieldy compared with what can be, and is being, achieved by biometric technology.

Many countries are using, or preparing to use, biometrics to secure welfare payments by positive identification of claimants. A widely favoured system requires claimants to sign on using an electronic pen, which detects personal writing characteristics (pressure, speed, etc.) as well as the signature itself. The system is virtually impossible to cheat.

The Department of Employment has installed an automated signature verification system, covering about 22,000 recipients of unemployment benefit. When this was first initiated

in 1994, a number of regular claimants no longer turned up to sign on. But progress has been painfully slow.

In Spain some seven million welfare claimants are already enrolled on a biometric system, and a system operating in a single county of California is expected to have made savings of some \$200 million by next September by preventing claimants from using false names.

The National Audit Office has estimated that some £1.4 billion could have been paid out last year in fraudulent claims for income support. In addition, housing benefit claims of up to £2 billion could have been fraudulent. Most, if not all, of these false claims could have been prevented by biometric technology.

Yours faithfully,
EMMA NEWHAM,
Editor, *Biometric Technology Today*,
SIB Services,
London House,
Broad Street, Somerset, Somerset.
June 10.

International pupils

From Ms Glenda Jackson, MP for Hampstead and Highgate (Labour)

Sir, The Southbank International School, in my constituency, serves the children of expatriate families in London on two to five-year assignments with their companies or embassies. These families are seeking a school that prepares its pupils for the International Baccalaureate.

Because of their lack of English-language fluency and the British national curriculum, it is difficult for such families to secure places for them in local state or independent schools. Therefore your presentation (Diary, June 14) of my opening the school as having something to do with the Labour Party's policy on education was ill-informed and misleading.

I welcome every opportunity to visit those independent schools in my constituency to present the principles of the Labour Party and I welcome the international nature of the Southbank school.

The future peace and prosperity of the world depend on good international relations. Given the appalling mess the Prime Minister is making of our relationship with the European Union, perhaps he might like to spend a couple of terms at Southbank school.

Yours faithfully,
GLENDA JACKSON,
House of Commons.

Ups and downs

From Mr Anthony G. Phillips

Sir, Under the heading "Population boom time" (*Management*, June 13) we learn that the Government has accepted "a dramatic upwards revision of previous population estimates".

A day later we learn that the Office of National Statistics is forecasting that in 15 to 20 years there will be a fall in population.

Perhaps the Government has different policies to justify these different predictions. Maybe your headline, "Dentists to be paid extra for children" (also June 13), indicates one of them.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY G. PHILLIPS,
32 Upper Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
June 14.

Last dance

From the Editor of Dance Europe

Sir, With a lottery producing funds wildly exceeding the original expectations, the folding of London City Ballet (report, June 18) is unforgivable, and an absolute scandal.

Yours sincerely,
EMMA MANNING,
Editor, *Dance Europe*,
PO Box 326, London N5 2J.

Tackling evil of cowboy builders

From Mr Ronald Bernstein, QC

Sir, Your report (June 14) on an inquest verdict of unlawful killing upon an elderly man who committed suicide following the activities of cowboy builders.

The lack of protection (legal or practical) for householders against defective building work has recently been the subject of a report published by a committee of Justice which I chaired.

Our principal recommendation was for legislation to provide that a builder carrying out work to a dwelling, above a relatively low threshold, should be obliged to provide a guarantee, backed by an insurance company, that the work will be completed to a satisfactory standard.

A builder who failed to provide such a guarantee would not be entitled to payment, and a householder who had paid for the work would be entitled to repayment.

Our proposals have been rejected by the present Government. Yet our report is only the latest in a series of investigations, some of them government-sponsored, which have all agreed that cowboy builders cause distress, anxiety and financial loss to great numbers of householders, many of them elderly, every year.

Whether any legislation could have averted this particular tragedy must be doubtful; but it is not high time that the evil of cowboy builders was tackled?

Yours faithfully,
RONALD BERNSTEIN,
103 Swain's Lane, NW.
June 17.

The Paestum Diver

From Mr John Davis

Sir, I think the "passage from life to death" interpretation of the Paestum Diver (Arts, June 11; letter, June 19) is probably right. The 5th-century comic poet Pherecrates uses the Greek verb "to dive" of "plunging down to Tartarus" and the tragedians often use the image of a bird to signify a soul "winging its way to Hades".

The Diver has the elegance and poise of a bird in flight (itself the normal image in Homer of a god's descent from Olympus to the world of men).

Whatever the meaning, it is a beautiful picture in its own right, as you say.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DAVIS,
(Head of Classics),
St Paul's School,
Lonsdale Road, SW13.
June 19.

Shaken, not stirred

From Dr James Chapman

Sir, Mr Raymond Benson, a Chicago computer-game designer, is to continue the adventures of James Bond. He is described by your reporter (June 17) as a *Bondian* expert, who "could tell you whether Bond stirred his tea clockwise or anti-clockwise".

This question, as any *Bond* aficionado worth his licence to kill will know, would never arise in the world of Ian Fleming. "I don't drink tea", Bond once said (*Goldfinger*, chapter 5). "I hate it. It's mud. Moreover it's one of the main reasons for the downfall of the British Empire".

It was of another secret agent, a certain John Steed, that his partner in crime-fighting, Mrs Emma Peel, once remarked: "He likes his tea stirred anti-clockwise." (*The Avengers: The Forget-me-Knot*, January 1969).

Yours faithfully,
J. R. CHAPMAN,
73 Storch Lane,
Wales, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Becket's casket

From Mr Nicholas Payne

Sir, As David Barrie, Director of the National Art-Collections Fund, says of the St Thomas à Becket casket (report, June 13, 15; leading article June 15), "If anything's heritage, this is it".

If the National Heritage Memorial Fund is prepared to give £12.5 million for the Churchill papers, it should not hesitate to give a paltry £1.5 million for this rare and important treasure.

The public has only heard about its proposed sale three weeks before the sale date. An appeal should have been launched ages ago, so that we could have had a chance to save this wonderful casket which it is believed held a relic of that "turbulent priest". This treasure should belong to the nation.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS PAYNE,
The Mount, Whitley,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Split personality

From Mr Rodney V. Bird

Sir, I was intrigued to note in today's *Times* that the Captain General Royal Marines attended a reception at which the Duke of Edinburgh was present.

As they are one and the same person it would have been difficult not to.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
R. V. BIRD,
(Lieutenant Royal Marines (ret)),
1 Barnfield Avenue, Exmouth, Devon.
June 14.

ILONA FERENCÉ

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a smiling woman, likely a bride, wearing a dark dress and a large, ornate floral corsage. She is holding a bouquet of flowers in front of her.

PETER FLETCHER

A black and white photograph of a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, smiling and looking down at a document he is holding. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a dark tie. The background is dark and out of focus.

Peter Fletcher is survived by his two sons, his marriage having ended in divorce.

PERSONAL COLUMN

[illegible]

It is true that the visitor to London, looking at the bare surface of things, still thinks that there is little outward evidence that half the world is at war; although the true Londoner, who reads his environment as a lover reads the face of his mistress, is aware of many and profound changes. But London, being the headquarters of organized pleasure, is necessarily also the centre of that feverish unrest that is the inevitable accompaniment of a state of war; and being the centre also of the military and naval activities of various kinds return for their brief snatch of concentrated holiday, the actual business and machinery of pleasure in some degree responds to the general stimulus. But you must go to the country, and study the country life that really still is England more than any city life can be, to realise the changes that are being wrought in people's lives. Except here there is no change. In the East, and, especially for the absence of young men from the villages, And in the people's working lives the changes, although many, are not obvious: here and there a munitions factory trembles and roars day and night in what was a year ago some green and

peaceful solitude: here and there you notice the unfamiliar figures of women at a task that has been exclusively associated with the work of men. But you are not in their working hours so much as in their spare hours that people leave and see the change; and most of all it is visible in the character of their recreations.

Like so many other things, since the dawn of machinery a century ago, pleasure has been becoming more and more complicated. The people to whom motor cars were toys 10 or 15 years ago have long ceased to regard them as anything but part of the machinery of their lives; but within the last five years, with the advent of the cheap and efficient car, there has been created an enormous middle-class

Now the motor-car has perforce gone, or is going, out of thousands of lives which it for a period irradiated with its somewhat baleful joys. Its surrender has often been an act of very real self-denial and patriotism; but it has left the bereaved ones face to face with the problem of how they are now to amuse themselves — pleasure and amusement of some kind being a necessary part of their daily bread. And people are being forced now by note back through the scale of pleasure which they ascended with chromatic rapidity; and many of them are not a little surprised to find in the lower tones, now that they come to dwell upon them, a pleasure which they did not realize in the hasty flourish upwards to the high note of the motor-car. Here the motor bicycle has been substituted for the motor-car; here, at the abandonment of the motor bicycle, even more the people have been raised from its low estate as a parcel carrier to a serious vehicle of pleasure. Here and there people have even discovered that they have legs, and can walk; and that primitive and clumsy as that form of locomotion seems, there are satisfactions associated with it which perhaps they had done less than justice to.

Edinburgh 10.03 pm to 4.25 am
 Manchester 8.42 pm to 4.40 am
 Penzance 9.36 pm to 5.12 am

Moon sets
 11.31 pm

Moon rises
 8.14 am

First quarter June 24

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